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PUNISHING CRIMINALS

THE PUBLIC'S VIEW

AN ALABAMA SURVEY

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An Alabama Survey

An Analysis of Public Opinion
Prepared by the Public Agenda Foundation for
The Edna McConnell Clark Foundation

By John Doble and Josh Klein

1989

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Preface

Public opinion, we hear, is forcing lawmakers to get tough with criminals. For some 15 years, policymakers across the country have taken a hard line with criminals in the pursuit of safe streets. Our prison population has grown by more than 200 percent, but crime remains a major problem. Undeterred by the poor outcome of increased incarceration, politicians continue to push for harsher penalties under the banner of doing the public's bidding.

The major impact of the toughened policies, however, has been on the taxpayer's wallet and on wardens who struggle to control the swarms of incoming inmates — about a thousand a week nationwide. As the cost of prisons becomes one of the largest single items in state budgets, and as even the most aggressive building programs fail to keep pace with swelling inmate populations, the question occurs: Does the public view imprisonment as the only adequate punishment for crime?

The Public Agenda Foundation put this question before a representative sample of 420 Alabama citizens. Their answer was a resounding no. Alabamians are by no means ready to abandon prisons; they want drug dealers and violent criminals caged. But the study found the public to be much more discriminating and practical in punishing offenders than merely tossing them into overcrowded prisons for lengthy terms. When respondents were presented with sentencing options beyond prison and probation, when they were educated about the relative costs of various punishments, they moved away from imprisonment as the preferred punishment for certain classes of offenders.

The survey provides guidance to policymakers who think that advocating anything short of prison for convicted felons is political suicide. Three areas of "paydirt" emerge:

- If offenders selected for alternative sentences are serious but not dangerous offenders, the public will tolerate punishments other than prison.
- The public is ready to embrace sentencing options that stress restitution and rehabilitation.

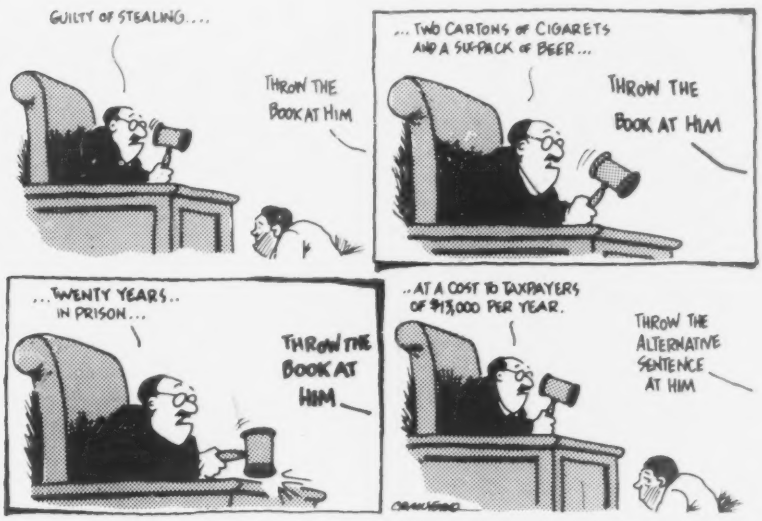
- With some basic information, the public moves rapidly to broaden this embrace of alternative punishments for selected offenders otherwise destined for prison.

As encouraging as the findings are for those who seek to reduce reliance on prison, a program that uses alternative punishments may be hard to maintain in the face of the nation's extraordinary crime rate and a steady barrage of frightening crime reports in the media. Rapes, killings, and street muggings are standard fare on the evening news. Tempering our visceral reaction to crime and criminals takes leaders with courage.

The Public Agenda survey was undertaken as one of several activities the Foundation is supporting in Alabama to help leaders bring their prison population in balance with their prison capacity. In supporting this study, the Clark Foundation sought to test earlier studies dispelling the notion that the public holds an iron grip on the proposition that punishment equals imprisonment. We sought to fortify Alabama's leaders in their support of a penal system that dispenses justice effectively and affordably.

The study will also give encouragement to leaders throughout the country who ponder the same problem. It is unlikely that citizens of other states would be less willing than Alabamians to consider alternatives to imprisonment. Alabama can hardly be accused of being soft on criminals.

Kenneth F. Schoen
Director, Program for Justice


GUILTY OF STEALING....
THROW THE BOOK AT HIM
... TWO CARTONS OF CIGARETS AND A SIX-PACK OF BEER...
THROW THE BOOK AT HIM
...TWENTY YEARS.. IN PRISON...
THROW THE BOOK AT HIM
..AT A COST TO TAXPAYERS OF $13,000 PER YEAR.
THROW THE ALTERNATIVE SENTENCE AT HIM

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Introduction

Political leaders and criminal justice professionals in some 39 states are faced with a dilemma: they are under court order to reduce prison overcrowding, yet they have limited tax dollars to expand prison space. Further, they often face community opposition when deciding where to locate new corrections facilities. In addition, many professionals are convinced that imprisonment by itself does little either to deter crime or to encourage law-abiding behavior among offenders after completion of their sentences. Increasingly, they are looking at alternatives to incarceration, including ideas like house arrest, intensively supervised probation, restitution, and community service as ways to reduce prison overcrowding. But will the public accept these alternatives? Would the public accept them if it knew more about why such alternatives are being considered and how they work?

To shed light on these questions, the Public Agenda Foundation, a New York-based, not-for-profit research and educational organization that specializes in exploring public understanding of complex policy issues, looked at Alabamians' views on prison overcrowding and alternatives to incarceration. Using newly developed research techniques, the Public Agenda study was designed not only to measure people's initial views about crime, prison overcrowding, and sentencing, but also to determine what their views would be if they understood more about the issues.

For the Alabama study, Public Agenda asked Dr. Philip Coulter, director of the Institute for Social Science Research at the University of Alabama, to design a sample of adults that would reflect a scientifically representative cross section of the state's population in terms of geography and various demographic criteria including race, sex, education, and age. Public Agenda then commissioned several Alabama research firms to recruit people who met Dr. Coulter's criteria. A total of 422 were chosen to participate in the study. Each was given an incentive payment of $25 or $30 to attend a three-hour session. Respondents were from Birmingham, Florence, Mobile and Montgomery, as well as smaller, more rural towns such as Jasper and Gunterville.

Respondents first filled out a detailed questionnaire on their attitudes about crime, Alabama's criminal justice system, and alternative sentences. In this booklet the initial questionnaire will be called the "pretest." The pretest included 23 hypothetical criminal cases ranging from shoplifting to rape and armed robbery. The respondents were asked to sentence the offender in each case to either probation or prison.

Respondents then saw a 22-minute videotape produced by Public Agenda that described the problem of prison overcrowding and presented five alternative sentences developed after consultation with criminal justice experts in Alabama and across the country. The alternatives were: strict probation, strict probation plus restitution, strict probation plus community service, house arrest, and boot camp. The video explained the issues in a balanced way and presented arguments for and against the use of alternatives.

After seeing the video, respondents convened in discussion groups of about 15 led by a staff member from Public Agenda or by a trained moderator from the Human Organization Science Institute at Villanova University. The discussions lasted nearly an hour and a half. Respondents considered how each alternative would work, its costs and risks, and the trade-offs of using it for various types of offenders.

Finally, respondents filled out a second questionnaire in which they were asked to sentence offenders in the same 23 cases used in the pretest, but this time with seven options: the original two of probation and prison, plus the five alternatives. This second questionnaire will be referred to in this booklet as the "posttest."

Throughout the evening, respondents were asked to think of themselves as members of a citizen advisory panel advising the governor, the state legislature, and other ranking officials of the state of Alabama about prison overcrowding and the use of alternative sentences. The sample and method used in this study enable us to reflect the views of the adult citizens of the state of Alabama when they learn about alternative sentences and prison overcrowding. The demographic and geographic similarity of the sample to the state's population suggests that the conclusions drawn in this report would not change significantly were every adult in Alabama asked the same questions.

The results of the Alabama study will be of interest to all those who must cope with the problem of prison overcrowding. They suggest that there may be far more public support for using alterna-

tives than is generally supposed. Respondents were asked to choose appropriate sentences for 23 offenders whose hypothetical crimes ranged from petty theft and joyriding to rape and armed robbery. When initially asked to decide whether these offenders should be put in prison or on probation, respondents chose prison for 18 of the 23. When asked again after seeing the video on alternatives, respondents chose prison for only four offenders. They placed the other 14 originally targeted for prison into one of the alternative programs. Given Alabama's historical conservatism on criminal justice issues, it is reasonable to expect similar results in other parts of the country.

Other results, however, may be less likely to please corrections officials with limited resources. After learning about alternatives such as strict probation, house arrest, restitution, community service, and boot camp, respondents wanted to use these options for most of the offenders they had originally placed on probation. With more choices, respondents chose probation for only one of the 23 offenders, a first-time shoplifter. While the alternatives are less expensive than prison, they are substantially more expensive than "regular" probation as practiced in most states.

Beyond revealing judgments about particular offenses and categories of offenders, the study is illuminating for its insights into the premises that guide people's thinking. Several findings seem especially important since they suggest that the public approaches criminal justice questions from a perspective that is quite different from that of many professionals.

First, Alabamians believe the top priority for court and prison officials should be to protect public safety, not relieve prison overcrowding or reduce costs. Concern about overcrowding necessarily preoccupies the criminal justice professional. But concern about personal safety preoccupies most ordinary citizens. To the degree that people believe their safety will not be compromised, they may express considerable support for using alternative sentences. But if people are not assured of safety, they will not be persuaded to support an alternative program merely because it is less costly. For most people, cost is of secondary importance.

Alabamians believe in rehabilitation. They believe that work and paying back society are the ways by which offenders can turn their lives around. Alternatives that feature work and repayment, restitution and community service, were more popular than alternatives such as house arrest.

Alabamians believe in deterrence, that the prospect of swift and certain punishment will reduce crime. Much of the public's disenchantment with probation policies stems from the belief that placing an offender, particularly a young one, on probation merely encourages him to think he can disobey the law again. People's belief in deterrence also emerges when they are asked what to do if offenders violate the terms of an alternative sentence. Sixty-seven percent said an offender on strict probation should receive a more severe sentence for oversleeping and missing a meeting with his probation officer. If he were found using drugs or shoplifting, more than 90 percent said his sentence should be made more severe.

In interpreting the Alabama study, it is important to emphasize that respondents believe alternative sentences constitute more appropriate and effective forms of punishment for many offenders than either prison or probation. This belief gives criminal justice officials the opportunity to use alternatives to address the overcrowding problems their states face. But public support for alternatives is not open-ended and should not be misread. Alternatives are for offenders who pose little risk of violence to the community. If people think that violent offenders are being allowed in their communities, or that alternatives are loosely administered "revolving doors" for career criminals, public support for them will evaporate.

Jean Johnson
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Crime and Incarceration: The Alabama View

To understand why the Alabama respondents felt as they did about alternative sentences, it is necessary first to examine their views about crime and the criminal justice system. Alabamians' thinking about the crime rate, the courts, and prison overcrowding make up their "starting point," the views they held before learning more about these issues.

Alabama respondents were frightened by what they saw as an increase in crime. As a result, many were willing to consider sweeping changes in the criminal justice system.

With near unanimity, 83 percent of the Alabamians interviewed said crime in their community had increased in the past year. While the percentage who felt this way was slightly lower in rural areas (76 percent), people across the state and from every key demographic group — blacks and white, young and old, men and women, rich and poor, well-educated and not-so-well-educated — believe crime is on the rise. Crime is everywhere, said a Birmingham woman. "Ten years ago," she added, "you could walk down the street and not have to worry. Nowadays you've got to think twice, and it doesn't matter where you live." A woman from Huntsville said, "My child's car was broken into and [thieves] took some pretty expensive items. We live in a nice neighborhood; it's not a neighborhood where you'd expect something like that to happen. Over the past ten years or so, things have gotten worse." A woman from Florence said, "Twenty years ago, I never locked my front door. Now I wouldn't dream of leaving it unlocked." *(See Table 1.)*

Some people attributed the perceived rise in crime to changing times. "You have teenagers committing more violent crimes now than, say, twenty or thirty years ago," a man from Mobile said. A few suggested the rise was due to increased awareness of certain kinds of crimes. "We have quite a bit of child abuse," a Huntsville woman said. "We also have more wife-beaters. We're spotting it more quickly because people are more aware of it, not that there's really more of it." But for most respondents the increase in crime was real, not a function of increased awareness.

The use and sale of illegal drugs was the most frequently mentioned cause of rising crime. A Huntsville woman said, "Crime has changed in the last twenty years. It's related to a different

element; it's switched over into drugs. We used to have a lot of liquor-related crimes. Now it's drugs." A number of people said violent crime in particular has increased because of drugs. A Birmingham woman said, "There's plenty of crime in Alabama and it's drug-related. On the street where I live, a crack dealer knocked on a man's door and shot his brains out."

1 Different Demographic Groups' Views of Local Crime Rate

"In the past year, do you feel the crime rate in your area has: been increasing, remained the same as before, or been decreasing?"

	Increasing %	Same %	Decreasing %	Not Sure %
Sample total	**83**	**7**	**3**	**8**
White	84	7	3	7
Black	81	6	3	11
Age 18-30	80	5	2	13
Age 61 & over	84	8	3	5
Urban county	85	6	3	7
Rural county	76	10	4	11
Income of <$20,000	86	6	2	7
Income of >$40,000	80	9	4	7
Some high school or less	79	6	5	10
College graduate or more	84	5	2	9
Men	87	6	3	5
Women	79	7	3	10

Note: Due to rounding, percentages may not always add to 100%.

Like most Americans, Alabama respondents gave low marks to the criminal justice system. Since Alabamians' views mirror those of the nation as a whole, they should be understood as a reflection of concern about crime, not an indictment of the state's leadership.

People were asked to rate various components of the state criminal justice system, including the state police, state prisons, the courts, and the juvenile justice system. The police were well-regarded, with 55 percent of the respondents saying they are doing either an excellent or good job. But majorities said the other branches were doing only a fair job. The court system got at least a fair rating from 65 percent, but only 19 percent said it was doing a good or excellent job. A bare majority said the juvenile justice system was doing at least a fair job; however, large numbers of respondents were not sure, suggesting that many were too unfamiliar with that system to rate it. *(See Table 2.)*

Unhappiness with the criminal justice system seemed rooted in the view that it was too lenient. For example, 77 percent said in the pretest that the vast majority of offenders should serve at least some time in prison, and 50 percent said many currently on probation should be in prison. Finally, a plurality, 41 percent, said most prison sentences should be longer. *(See Table 3.)*

The Alabama respondents were also critical of what they saw as the priorities of the criminal justice system. A large majority, 68 percent, wanted more emphasis on maintaining basic law and order. A number of respondents expressed dissatisfaction with the amount of attention being paid to victims of crime, with more than two out of three saying there should be more emphasis on victims' rights. *(See Tables 3 and 4.)*

These results, taken together, suggest that many respondents believed the criminal justice system does not adequately protect the public. These views may also reflect widespread misunderstanding or lack of information. Accurate or not, these views form the context in which these issues are perceived. In effect, the criminal justice system has a limited reservoir of public good will to buffer it in case of a tragedy such as a violent crime committed by someone on work release or furlough. In comparison, the police have a much larger reservoir. If a state police officer were involved in a tragic accident such as the shooting of an innocent person, many Alabamians would rally to his defense, saying this was, in effect, a mistake that should be forgiven because the police gener-

ally do a good job. But other agencies would not find the public so forgiving.

It is important to note that these views are not peculiar to Alabamians. For decades, Americans expressed a great deal of confidence in the police and low confidence in the rest of the criminal justice system. In a nationwide 1984 Roper survey, 69 percent said the police are doing either a good or excellent job. But in a national survey for *Newsweek* in 1981, the Gallup organization found only 28 percent of Americans had at least "quite a bit" of confidence, and 70 percent had little or no confidence, in the courts' ability to sentence and convict criminals. Therefore, Alabamians' ratings of the criminal justice system and its branches should be seen as part of a larger national pattern.

2 Rating of the State Government and Criminal Justice System (Pretest)

"People sometimes have different opinions about their state government. How good a job do you think the following branches of government are doing?"

Branch	Excellent %	Good %	Fair %	Poor %	Not Sure %
State police	10	45	33	8	5
State government	1	29	51	15	5
Juvenile justice system	3	19	32	23	24
State courts	2	18	45	22	13
State prisons	—	14	39	30	18

Note: Due to rounding, percentages may not always add to 100%.

3 Views About Sentencing and Prisons (Pretest)

"The vast majority of criminal offenders should serve at least some time in prison."

	%
Agree	77
Disagree	10
Not Sure	12

"Many of the people now on probation in Alabama really belong in prison."

	%
Agree	50
Disagree	18
Not sure	32

"In general, do you think prison sentences in Alabama should be:"

	%
Longer	41
Shorter	4
About the same	28
Not sure	27

Most Alabamians felt that the state's prison system was doing only a fair job. As with the rest of the criminal justice system, this rating reflects general discontent about crime; it is not an indictment of the current system or leadership.

Like all the other state agencies tested except the police, the prison system was said to be doing a fair job by most Alabamians, 53 percent. But a large number, 18 percent, were not sure, suggesting widespread unfamiliarity with the prison system. *(See Table 2.)* Americans traditionally give very low ratings to prisons when they are asked about the components of the criminal justice system. Their unrealistic ideas about rehabilitation would seem to be at least partly responsible. For example, in a nationwide 1982 Gallup survey, 94 percent wanted every prison to "require prisoners to have a skill or to learn a trade to fit them for a job before they are released." Prison officials would probably call this a laudable but unrealistic goal.

We also discovered what we call a "negative halo effect," where what happens in one state's prison system can affect people's thinking about another system. In what we saw as a reference to Willie Horton, the Massachusetts convict who committed rape while on furlough, a man from Florence said, "Prisons allow murder convicts to get weekend passes!"

Though the results in Alabama are in line with national figures, it is important to specify why respondents were dissatisfied with prisons. Many said prison should be "harder" on inmates, but harder in a particular sense. Many believed inmates sit idle all day, in air-conditioned rooms, watching color TV or movies on a VCR. A woman from Birmingham said, "I don't think [inmates] should have television or anything like that. They committed a crime!" A man from Mobile echoed that thought, saying: "[Inmates] shouldn't have the right to be comfortable in a prison." These views are consistent with national results. In a 1982 Gallup study, 53 percent agreed that conditions in the country's prisons were not harsh enough. Some Alabamians even said the deterrent effect of prison was lessened by what they saw as too many amenities. A Birmingham man said, "Sometimes, if prisons are too easy, [offenders] don't mind going back."

But "harshness" meant more than reducing amenities. As noted, many respondents believe that inmates are idle all day. Instead of allowing inmates to sit around, respondents wanted

them to work, and work hard. Indeed, there was strong sentiment for making the prisoners work so productively that the prisons would become economically self-sufficient. A man from Birmingham said, "[Inmates] could build the new prisons, grow their own food. Let them work in eight-hour shifts." Almost no one suggested that inmates' labors should be unduly harsh or vindictive, but respondents did want inmates to work hard in order to occupy their time, reduce expenses and, most important, to learn and internalize the work ethic shared by the rest of society.

Alabamians also expressed dissatisfaction with current rehabilitation efforts. A large majority, 77 percent, said there should be more emphasis on rehabilitation. People had specific things in mind. In addition to the work ethic, many agreed with a Birmingham woman who said, "There ought to be something within the prison that is constructive and that builds self-esteem into these people." *(See Table 4.)*

Finally, some respondents said prison life did more harm than good. In the discussions, people attributed the problem of rough or violent treatment to other prisoners, not guards or officials. Many respondents wanted convicts to be separated, depending on the severity of their offense, with nonviolent criminals kept away from those who committed violent crimes. A Birmingham woman said, "People come out of prison more disturbed than when they went in." Twenty-three percent agreed that "prison turns people into hardened criminals" and another 24 percent were not sure. *(See Table 4.)*

The Alabama respondents knew the state's prisons were overcrowded but they were not aware of the rise in the state's incarceration rate.

Most respondents knew that Alabama prisons were overcrowded, with 69 percent in the pretest saying the state needs more prisons. A Huntsville woman said, "Our jails are certainly overcrowded. They put pictures of it on TV all the time." A man from that city said the state "is building a new prison on a yearly basis." However, while most respondents knew of the problem, only a handful were aware of its extent. Only 14 percent knew the number of prison inmates in the state has more than doubled over the past decade. *(See Table 5.)*

4 Views About Prisons And Victims' Rights

"Prison turns people into hardened criminals."

	%
Agree	23
Disagree	53
Not sure	24

"In Alabama, should the following get more emphasis, less emphasis, or about the same emphasis they get now:"

"Efforts to rehabilitate convicted offenders"

	%
More	77
Less	4
Same emphasis	10
Not sure	9

"The rights of a victim of a crime"

	%
More	68
Less	11
Same emphasis	14
Not sure	7

Respondents did not think overcrowding gets in the way of rehabilitation and, therefore, did not feel that overcrowding promotes recidivism. Indeed, most respondents did not think overcrowding *per se* was much of a problem. A Birmingham woman said, "I can understand the danger of overcrowding and the problems with controlling prisoners, but I'm not really sympathetic to the ones in there." The court-ordered release of inmates was the only disagreeable consequence of overcrowding named by respondents. Several mentioned that to relieve overcrowding, the state had given early release to prisoners, an action that concerned them. A man from Florence said, "It's very definite the prisons are overcrowded and we have to do something about it. But at the same time we cannot allow our prisons to release prisoners who are dangerous and detrimental to our way of life."

5 Knowledge of Prisons (Pretest)

"Does the state of Alabama need more prisons?"

	%
Yes	69
No	18
Not sure	13

"Over the last ten years, do you think the number of people in prison in Alabama has:"

	%
Decreased slightly	3
Stayed about the same	4
Increased slightly	19
Increased a lot	39
More than doubled (Correct Answer)	14
Not sure	21

Note: Due to rounding, percentages may not always add to 100%.

Most Alabamians do not see prison overcrowding as cruel and unusual punishment.

Asked if putting someone into an overcrowded prison was cruel, only about one in four said it was. Most shared the view of a man from Mobile who said, "Putting three prisoners in a cell for two doesn't bother me; they aren't supposed to be comfortable." A Birmingham man wondered if our standards are too high. "The overcrowding is perhaps inhumane," he said, "but outside of the United States, are they confronted with overcrowding? Are they concerned about what is cruel and unusual punishment?" *(See Table 6.)*

Respondents did set limits on the conditions they considered appropriate. One man pointed out, "I said *overcrowding* doesn't bother me. I did not say anything about medical experimentation

with prisoners or starving them. That's different, that is cruel and unusual." Nearly everyone opposed Draconian measures whenever they were brought up. In one session, for example, a Birmingham area man said, "The first time [a man commits a crime] I'd cut off his right hand. The second time, his left. And the third time, his head." The other people in the room were appalled by the comment. Several of them moved away from the man, inching their chairs around the table, and everyone except the moderator ignored all of his subsequent remarks.

We should also stress that when people were told the federal courts have ruled that putting prisoners into overcrowded cells violates the Constitution, no one objected. Only one or two people, for example, brought up states' rights or questioned the legitimacy of the courts' rulings. To the contrary, virtually all the respondents accepted the fact that they and their state have to make some tough choices about whether to build more prisons, release some prisoners early, or find new, less expensive ways to punish offenders. Indeed, it was this sense that fueled some of their support for using alternatives. It was also clear that the Alabamians themselves would have decided what constitutes overcrowding very differently than the courts have. But unlike controversies in other parts of the country, virtually every one of the 422 respondents accepted the legitimacy of the courts' rulings on this issue, and accepted the fact that Alabama must comply with court orders to eliminate overcrowding.

6 Views About Whether Overcrowding Is Cruel and Unusual Punishment (Pretest)

"Putting someone in an overcrowded prison is cruel and unusual punishment."

	%
Agree	27
Disagree	61
Not sure	12

7 Reactions to Various Solutions To Overcrowding (Pretest)

"As you may know, the courts have ruled that Alabama prisons are overcrowded. Here are some possible solutions. How do you feel about each one?"

"Build more prisons and pay for them by raising taxes."

	%
Favor	19
Oppose	60
Not sure	21

"Build more prisons and pay for them by cutting back in areas like education and health care."

	%
Favor	3
Oppose	91
Not sure	7

"Find new ways to punish offenders that are less expensive than prison, but harsher than probation."

	%
Favor	84
Oppose	6
Not sure	10

"Release some nonviolent offenders from prison a few months early."

	%
Favor	57
Oppose	27
Not sure	16

"Use capital punishment more often for the most serious crimes, such as murder."

	%
Favor	72
Oppose	18
Not sure	10

Alabamians do not want to build more prisons by raising taxes or by cutting state spending; these are not seen as solutions to the problem of prison overcrowding.

Raising taxes or cutting state spending in other areas to build more prisons were not popular ideas. Only 19 percent favored raising taxes to build more prisons and only three percent wanted to pay for more prisons by cutting state spending in such areas as education and health care. *(See Table 7.)*

But there were several popular solutions to overcrowding. In the pretest, 84 percent said they favored finding "new ways to punish offenders that are less expensive than prison but harsher than probation." This was the respondents' view before they learned about the alternative sentences presented. Several people volunteered that they had seen depictions of community service or restitution on TV. A man from Florence spoke for many when he said, "I think we need to make some changes because our system hasn't improved our crime rate whatsoever." A majority, 57 percent, also favored releasing some nonviolent offenders a few months early. Most respondents, 72 percent, favored increasing the use of capital punishment for crimes such as murder. When told that only a tiny number of convicts are on death row, most expressed the view that executions would free at least some cell space. Finally, and most important, respondents made it clear they would do whatever was necessary, including pay higher taxes, to imprison violent offenders and protect public safety. *(See Table 7.)*

Sentencing Offenders: The Difference Alternatives Make

Before watching the film that described the problem of prison overcrowding and that presented five alternative sentences, respondents were asked to sentence 23 hypothetical offenders using only two options: prison or probation.

Respondents often felt frustrated when asked to sentence 23 hypothetical offenders with only two sentencing options, prison or probation.

In the pretest, respondents had the same two options available to many of the nation's judges. Cases were varied and many included circumstances that placed them in a gray area between the sentencing extremes. Respondents were often uncomfortable with their options as indicated by the high number, often exceeding 15 percent, who said they were "not sure" whether to sentence a particular offender to prison or probation. Many felt they were left without an acceptable alternative.

In the pretest, Alabamians said that in 18 of the 23 cases, the offender should be incarcerated.

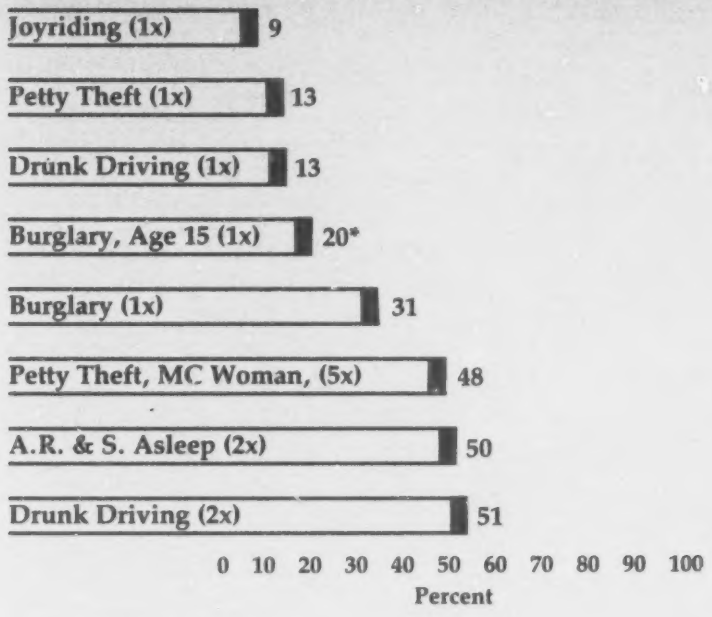
The cases fell into six categories:

1. A Case Involving Three Offenders:
"This case involves three men, each of whom has a record for car theft. While driving around one night, they decided to rob a liquor store. They had been drinking heavily and before they got to the store, the third man passed out drunk in the back seat. The first man entered the store with a gun and demanded money while the other two stayed in the car. When the salesman moved, the man panicked, shot him in the arm, and took $400. They were caught, so this is the second offense for each man.

- Where would you put the man who shot the salesman?
- Where would you put the man who drove the getaway car?
- Where would you put the man who agreed to the robbery but then fell asleep in the back of the getaway car?"

Ninety-seven percent wanted to incarcerate the man who shot the clerk. A large majority, 78 percent, also said the accomplice driving the getaway car should go to prison; 50 percent wanted to incarcerate the man who, after agreeing to the robbery, passed out in the back seat. *(See Charts 1A and C.)*

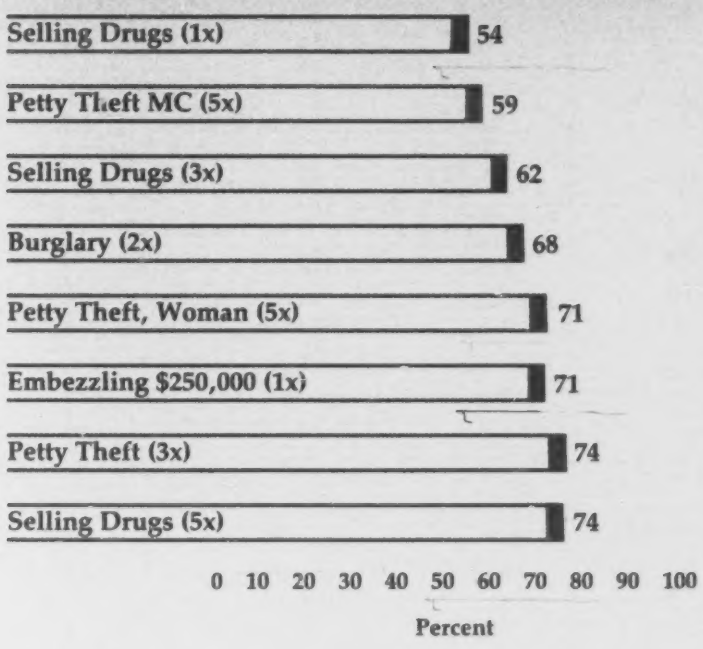
CHART 1A: Support for Incarceration For Various Crimes (Pretest)


Joyriding (1x) 9
Petty Theft (1x) 13
Drunk Driving (1x) 13
Burglary, Age 15 (1x) 20*
Burglary (1x) 31
Petty Theft, MC Woman, (5x) 48
A.R. & S. Asleep (2x) 50
Drunk Driving (2x) 51
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100
Percent

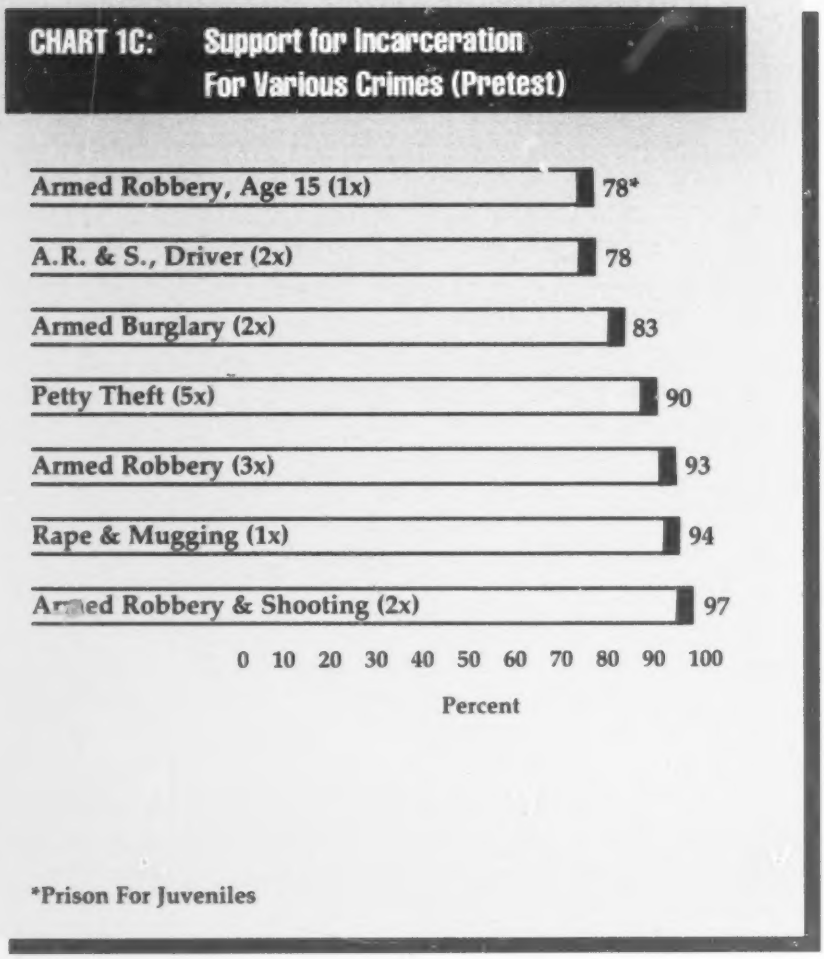
*Prison For Juveniles

2. Cases Involving Force or the Threat of Force:
Ninety-three percent of respondents wanted to incarcerate a man with two previous felony convictions who robbed a woman at gunpoint. When asked about a first offender who mugged and raped a young woman, 94 percent said he should be incarcerated. For an armed, second-time burglar, 83 percent favored prison, and 78 percent opted to put a 15-year-old armed robber into a prison for juveniles. Together, these results suggest that respondents were concerned about the threat of deadly force, as well as the use of force, as in the liquor store and rape cases. This reading is bolstered by evidence from the discussions when many volunteered that even the possibility of violence was a factor to consider. *(See Chart 1C.)*

CHART 1B: Support for Incarceration For Various Crimes (Pretest)


Selling Drugs (1x) 54
Petty Theft MC (5x) 59
Selling Drugs (3x) 62
Burglary (2x) 68
Petty Theft, Woman (5x) 71
Embezzling $250,000 (1x) 71
Petty Theft (3x) 74
Selling Drugs (5x) 74
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100
Percent

3. Cases Involving Shoplifting/Petty Theft by a Male:
Several cases involved offenders with multiple convictions for crimes such as shoplifting. When asked about a man convicted of shoplifting for the fifth time, 90 percent favored incarceration, and 74 percent wanted to imprison a shoplifter convicted for the third time. However, a much smaller number, 59 percent, wanted to incarcerate a five-time shoplifter who was described as someone who worked two jobs and had a wife and four children to support. This result suggests that many respondents took mitigating circumstances into consideration and, implicitly, that they would expect the courts to do the same. *(See Charts 1B and C.)*



4. Cases Involving Shoplifting/Petty Theft by a Female:
When asked about a woman convicted of petty theft for the fifth time, 71 percent favored incarceration. This represents a 19-point drop from the number favoring prison for a male in similar circumstances, but it is still a large majority. A plurality, 48 percent, wanted to incarcerate a woman convicted of shoplifting for the fifth time who was described as working two jobs and with four children. This represents an 11-point drop compared to a male in similar circumstances. Together, these results suggest that a sizable minority of Alabamians would be more lenient with a female offender. *(See Charts 1A and B.)*

5. Embezzlement, Burglary, Drunk Driving and Shoplifting:
A first offender who embezzled $250,000 was said to deserve prison by 71 percent of the respondents. Nearly the same number, 68 percent, wanted to imprison a burglar who stole $5,000 and who had one prior felony conviction. Together, these results suggest that the amount stolen was less important to the Alabama respondents than it often is in a legal sense. While 51 percent favored incarcerating a man convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol for the second time, only 13 percent wanted to imprison a first-time drunk driver, and only 13 percent wanted to imprison a first-time shoplifter. *(See Charts 1A and B.)*

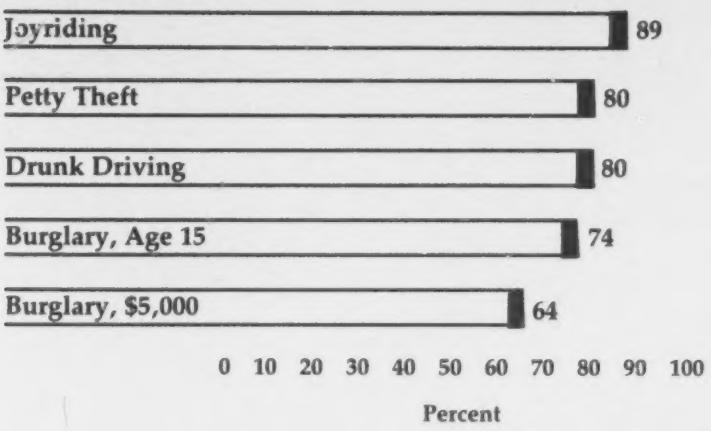
6. Cases Involving the Sale of Illegal Drugs:
A series of cases related to the sale of drugs. When asked about an addict seeking treatment who was convicted of selling drugs for the fifth time, 74 percent wanted to put him in prison. In other drug-selling cases, smaller majorities favored incarceration. For example, 62 percent wanted to incarcerate a man who was convicted of selling drugs for the third time. And 54 percent wanted to incarcerate a man caught selling drugs for the first time, suggesting that many Alabamians are particularly alarmed about drugs and favor stiff penalties for even small-time drug dealers. *(See Charts 1A and B.)*

In five of the 23 cases, offenders were judged as deserving probation. In these cases, fewer than one respondent in three favored incarceration.

A comparatively small number of respondents wanted to incarcerate a variety of first offenders, including a burglar who "late one night, broke into an electronics shop and stole a $5,000 stereo." The store was empty and the offender was said to be unarmed. In this case, only 31 percent favored incarceration, while 64 percent favored probation. *(See Charts 1 and 2.)*

Even smaller numbers wanted to incarcerate other first offenders. For example, only 13 percent favored imprisoning either a first-time drunk driver or a first-time shoplifter who stole about $150 worth of merchandise. In both cases, 80 percent favored probation. Only nine percent wanted to incarcerate a joyrider, a man who "hot-wired a car, drove it around for a couple of hours, then returned it undamaged," while 89 percent wanted him sentenced to

CHART 2: Crimes For Which Most People Prefer Probation (Pretest)



probation. One in five, 20 percent, wanted to send a 15-year-old unarmed burglar to a special prison for juvenile offenders while 74 percent wanted him put on probation. *(See Charts 1 and 2.)*

After making decisions on the 23 cases with prison and probation as their only options, respondents were shown a film that discussed the issue of prison overcrowding and presented five alternative sentences. Respondents then broke up into groups of about fifteen people and discussed the issue for about an hour and a half. Finally, they were asked to decide the 23 cases again, but this time using prison, probation, and the five alternative sentences as options. Each was given a handout as a memory guide that listed the seven possible sentences with some description and data concerning their use by the criminal justice system. The handout read as follows:

SEVEN ALTERNATIVES

1. *REGULAR PROBATION*
   - *Offender visits the probation officer once a month.*
   - *Length of Sentence: Up to 2 years.*
   - *Cost: $1,000 a year.*

2. *STRICT PROBATION*
   - *Offender sees the probation officer up to 5 times a week.*
   - *Length of Sentence: Up to 2 years.*
   - *Cost: $3,000 a year.*

3. *STRICT PROBATION AND RESTITUTION*
   - *Offender must pay back the victim.*
   - *Length of Sentence: Up to 2 years.*
   - *Cost: $3,500 a year.*

4. *STRICT PROBATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE*
   - *Offender must perform services to pay back the community.*
   - *Length of Sentence: Up to 6 months.*
   - *Cost: $5,500 a year.*

5. *HOUSE ARREST*
   - *Offender must stay home except to go to work, church, or a doctor.*
   - *Length of Sentence: Up to 1 year.*
   - *Cost: $4,500 a year.*

6. *BOOT CAMP*
   - *Offender must complete a basic training style program in a building near the prison but separate from the regular prisoners.*
   - *Length of Sentence: 3 to 6 months.*
   - *Cost: $8,500 a year.*

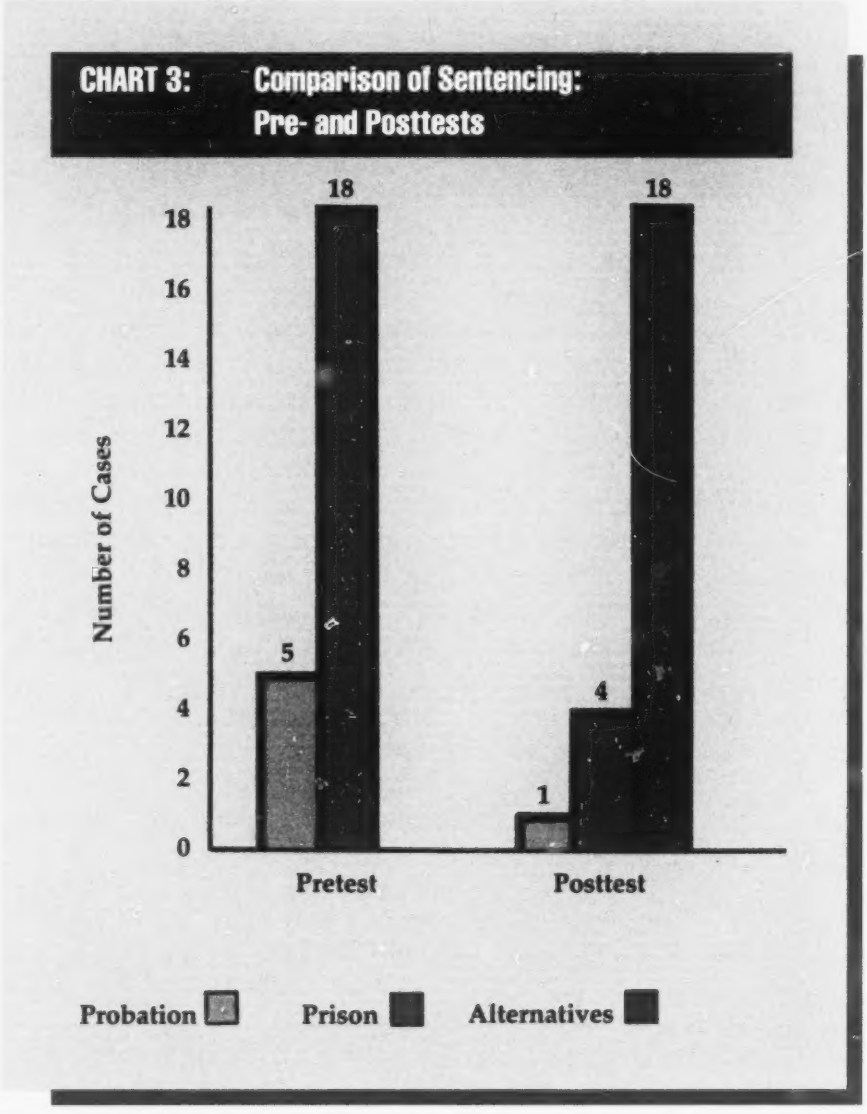
7. *PRISON*
   - *Cost: $10,000 to $30,000 a year, depending on the state.*

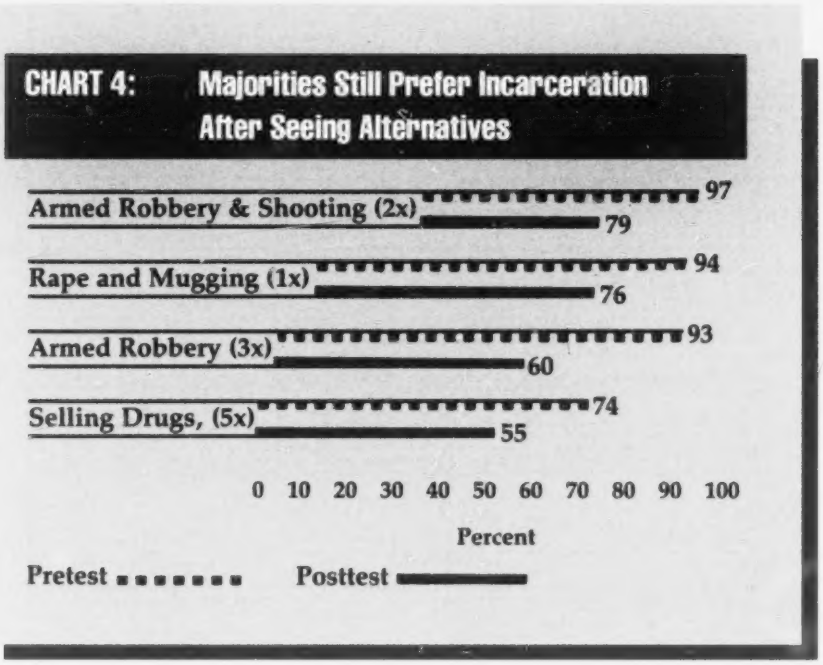
After learning about alternative sentences, most respondents favored incarceration in only four of the original 23 cases. Three of these cases involved violence, and the fourth was a man convicted of selling drugs for the fifth time.

In the posttest, a majority continued to favor incarcerating a robber who shot a liquor store clerk, a rapist, a man who robbed a woman at gunpoint, and a man convicted of selling drugs for the fifth time. In each case, a smaller number favored incarceration than in the

pretest. But of greater significance is the fact that in cases involving violence or the threat of violence, a solid majority favored incarceration both before and after learning about alternative sentences. *(See Charts 3 and 4.)*

We should also stress that the Alabama respondents did not set a hard and fast standard about what constitutes violence. Rather, they wanted the courts to have the discretion to differentiate among cases. For example, in a Birmingham group, we asked





whether a man who goes into a bar, gets drunk, and starts a fight should be incarcerated because his crime involves violence. Participants unanimously said he should be given an alternative sentence. We then asked if he should be incarcerated if he broke some furniture and a mirror during the fight. Again, they said not necessarily, though some said he should make restitution. Then we changed the scenario so the man pulled out a knife. At that point, the group changed its position and unanimously said the man should be incarcerated. We can speculate that the premeditated use of violence (as evidenced by carrying a knife) versus flying off the handle was a crucial distinction for the respondents.

In 18 of the 23 cases in the posttest, a majority favored using one of the five alternative sentences:

1. Shoplifting/Petty Theft by a Male and a Female:
In the pretest, most respondents wanted to incarcerate a shoplifter in four of six cases. But in the posttest, majorities favored using alternatives in all six. In the pretest, for example, 90 percent wanted to incarcerate a shoplifter convicted for the fifth time. But in the posttest, the number saying he should be incarcerated fell to 46

percent, while 52 percent wanted to sentence him to one of the alternatives. In the case of a three-time shoplifter who stole about $150 worth of merchandise, 74 percent initially favored prison. But in the posttest, only 22 percent wanted to imprison him, while 76 percent sentenced him to one of the alternatives. In the case of a woman convicted for the fifth time, 71 percent favored prison in the pretest, but only 23 percent held that view after learning about alternative sentences. *(See Table 8.)*

2. *Cases Involving the Sale of Illegal Drugs:*
In the pretest, a majority wanted to imprison a first- and third-offender caught selling drugs to an undercover police officer. But in the posttest, large majorities said that both should be sentenced to an alternative: 67 percent for the third offender and 62 percent for the first offender. Only in the case of the drug dealer convicted for the fifth time did a majority favor incarceration before and after learning about alternatives. *(See Table 9.)*

3. *Burglary/Embezzling/Drunk Driving:*
In two nonviolent burglary cases, majorities initially favored prison. Sixty-eight percent wanted to incarcerate a second-time unarmed burglar and 83 percent favored prison for a man "armed with a loaded pistol" that he did not use. But in the posttest, 78 percent wanted to put the first man into an alternative sentence, and 51 percent favored an alternative for the armed burglar. *(See Table 10.)*

We also asked respondents what should be done with a man who embezzled a quarter of a million dollars. In the pretest, 71 percent wanted to put him in prison. But in the posttest, only 30 percent held this view, while more than two-thirds preferred sentencing him to an alternative. Finally, we asked about a man convicted of drunk driving for the second time. In the pretest 51 percent wanted to put him in prison. But in the posttest, only nine percent held this view, while 89 percent favored sentencing him to an alternative. *(See Table 10.)*

4. *Armed Robbery and Crimes of Violence:*
In the liquor store robbery, Alabamians, both before and after learning about the alternatives, wanted to incarcerate the man who shot the clerk. But their thinking changed about the two accomplices. Initially, 78 percent wanted to incarcerate the driver of the getaway

8 Comparison of Sentencing In Cases of Petty Theft

Circumstances of offender	Pretest Prison %	Posttest Prison %	Posttest Alternatives %
Petty theft, first offense	13	2	47*
Petty theft, fifth offense, works 2 jobs, wife and 4 kids	59	27	66
Petty theft, third offense	74	22	76
Petty theft, fifth offense	90	46	52
Petty theft, fifth offense, woman working 2 jobs, has 4 kids	48	18	78
Petty theft, fifth offense, woman	71	23	74

**In the posttest, 51 percent would have sentenced this offender to regular probation.*

9 Comparison of Sentencing In Cases of Drug-Selling

Circumstances of offender	Pretest Prison %	Posttest Prison %	Posttest Alternatives %
Drug selling, first offense	54	21	62
Drug selling, third offense, addict seeking treatment	62	30	67
Drug selling, fifth offense, addict seeking treatment	74	55	41

10 Comparison of Sentencing In Cases of Burglary/Embezzlement

Circumstances of offender	Pretest Prison %	Posttest Prison %	Posttest Alternatives %
Burglary, first offense, 15-year-old	20	4	58
Burglary, first offense	31	7	72
Burglary, second offense	68	19	78
Armed burglary, second offense	83	46	51
Embezzling $250,000, first offense	71	30	67

In Cases of Drunk Driving/Joyriding

Circumstances of offender	Pretest Prison %	Posttest Prison %	Posttest Alternatives %
Joyriding, first offense	9	2	53
Drunk driving, first offense	13	2	54
Drunk driving, second offense	51	9	89

car, and 50 percent favored prison for the man who agreed to the crime, then passed out in the back seat. But in the posttest, 49 percent said the driver should go into an alternative sentence, while 60 percent favored an alternative for the man who fell asleep. *(See Table 11.)*

Finally there was the case of a 15-year-old armed robber who pulled a knife on a woman in the street and demanded money. When she resisted, he slashed her arm. In the pretest, 78 percent wanted to incarcerate him in a prison for juvenile offenders. But in the posttest, only 33 percent continued to hold this view, while 63 percent favored an alternative, though the most popular one in this case was boot camp. *(See Table 11.)*

In sum, in a wide variety of cases, many respondents who initially favored incarceration changed their minds about the most appropriate and effective sentence after learning about alternatives. We should emphasize, however, that except for the crime involving a 15-year-old, all of the cases where respondents' views changed involved an offense where violence was not used. As long as the crime did not involve violence, only small numbers favored incarceration after learning about alternatives, even with offenders who had multiple convictions. *(See Chart 5.)* (In only one of the 23 cases, a majority favored "regular" probation both before and after learning about alternative sentences.)

While many Alabamians wanted to sentence those originally ticketed for incarceration to an alternative, they also wanted to move offenders from regular probation into an alternative. In so doing, they effectively increased the severity of the sentence.

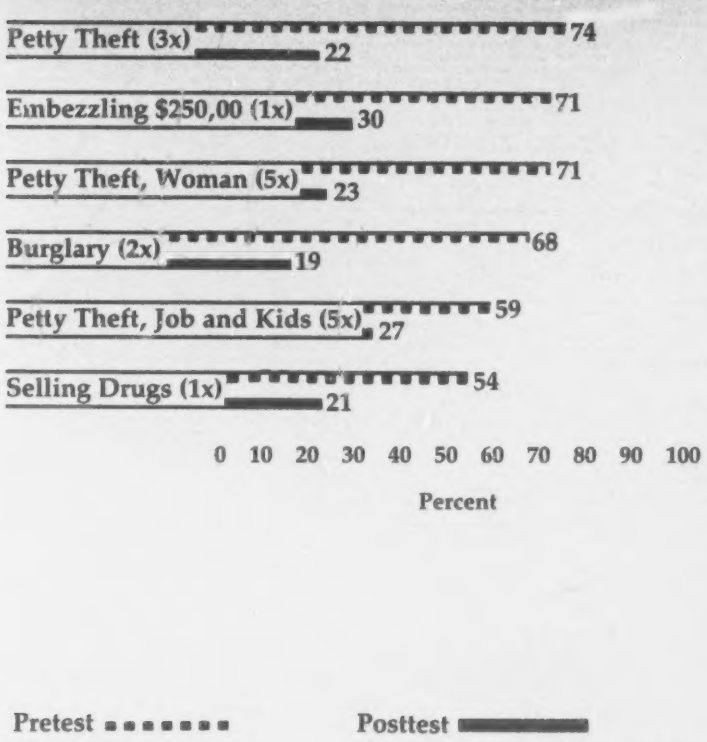
In the pretest, large numbers of respondents favored probation for those convicted of joyriding (89 percent), petty theft (80 percent), and drunk driving (80 percent). In addition, 74 percent favored probation for a 15-year-old first-time burglar, and 64 percent thought a first-time adult burglar who stole $5,000 should be put on probation. But in the posttest, many preferred using an alternative, suggesting they were unhappy with their initial choice and felt that regular probation was not strict enough. *(See Chart 6.)*

In the posttest, the number favoring regular probation for a shoplifter dropped to a bare majority of 51 percent compared to 80 percent in the pretest. In the case of the joyrider, a majority, 53 percent, favored sentencing him to an alternative, compared to 89

11 Comparison of Sentencing In Cases Involving Armed Robbery, Force or the Threat of Force

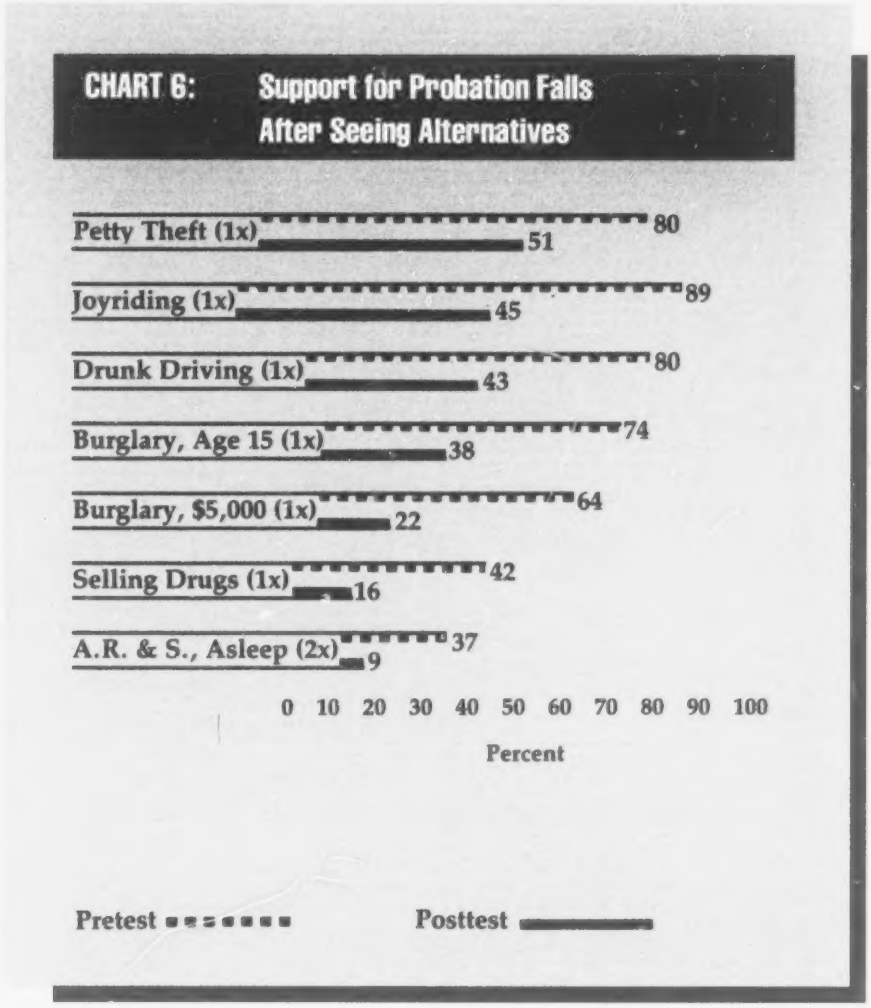
Circumstances of offender	Pretest Prison %	Posttest Prison %	Posttest Alternatives %
A case involving three men *(second offense for each)*			
Offender #1 who goes into a liquor store, shoots a clerk in the arm, and steals money	97	79	21
Offender #2 who drives the getaway car	78	46	49
Offender #3 who fell asleep in the car after agreeing to robbery	50	29	60
Rape, first offense (A man mugged and raped a young woman in the park.)	94	76	21
Armed robbery, third offense (A man pointed a loaded gun at a woman and took her purse.)	93	60	38
A 15-year-old armed robber, first offense (He slashed a woman on her arm with a knife then took money.)	78	33	63

CHART 5: Support for Incarceration Falls After Seeing Alternatives



percent who favored probation initially. In addition, 54 percent favored putting a first-time drunk driver into an alternative. With the two burglary cases, alternatives were even more popular. Nearly three in four (72 percent) wanted to put the first-time adult burglar into an alternative, while 58 percent wanted to give a 15-year-old burglar an alternative sentence. *(See Chart 6.)*

In sum, an overwhelming number of Alabama respondents felt that alternatives should be used for those who are now sentenced to probation as well as for many offenders who are now sent to prison. About nine out of ten respondents agreed with both positions. *(See Table 12.)*



Alternatives were popular for several reasons: first, they were thought to help judges make the punishment fit a crime; second, they were felt to have more potential to rehabilitate; third, they were thought to save money and be cost-effective; fourth and most important, they were seen as harsh enough to act as a deterrent and thereby protect public safety.

Respondents were given a list of arguments for and against the use of alternatives and asked to evaluate each one. Ninety percent agreed that alternatives "give judges the flexibility to make the punishment fit the crime." In the discussion groups, several people

12 Views About Using Alternatives Instead of Probation and Prison (Posttest)

"Some of the people who are currently on probation should really be more strictly supervised through programs like strict probation, house arrest, and boot camp."

	Posttest %
Agree	91
Disagree	3
Not sure	6

"Some of the people who are not sent to prison should really be put into alternative programs like strict probation, house arrest, and boot camp."

	Posttest %
Agree	88
Disagree	5
Not sure	7

argued that in order to achieve justice, a variety of alternatives were necessary. A woman from Mobile said, "You need all these options, you need as many as you can get because the crimes are so varied and the offenders so different." *(See Table 13.)*

In general, alternatives also were thought to have more potential for rehabilitation, largely because of the work-related component. Seventy-five percent agreed that "alternatives improve the chance that an offender will be rehabilitated." *(See Table 13.)*

An overwhelming majority, 85 percent, said that to reduce prison overcrowding they would favor alternative sentences for many of those who are now incarcerated. In the discussion groups, the moderators pointed out that mistakes might be made, that offenders sentenced to alternatives might commit violent crimes. "That's the chance we have to take," a man from Birmingham said. Another man said, "There's no such thing as a sure thing in life. You just do the best you can." *(See Table 13.)*

13 Support for Alternatives (Posttest)

Arguments for alternatives	Agree %	Disagree %	Not Sure %
"Alternatives give judges the flexibility to make the punishment fit the crime."	90	2	8
"Alternatives improve the chance that an offender will be rehabilitated."	75	10	15

Support for Alternatives as Possible Solution to Alabama's Prison Overcrowding (Posttest)

Possible solutions	Favor %	Disagree %	Not Sure %
"Place many people who would normally go to prison in less expensive programs such as strict probation, house arrest, boot camp, etc."	85	6	10

Note: Due to rounding, percentages may not always add to 100%.

Respondents also felt that the five alternatives, taken together, were harsh enough to serve as deterrents to crime. A Birmingham man said that restitution "would make [offenders] think about committing another crime if they know they'll have to make restitution to the victim." Only 22 percent believed that the "alternatives are not harsh enough; offenders should be punished to the full extent of the law." *(See Table 14.)*

14 Concern About the Use of Alternatives (Posttest)

Arguments against alternatives	Agree %	Disagree %	Not Sure %
"Alternatives give a judge too much room for choice and so offenders who commit identical crimes might receive different sentences."	33	47	19
"Alternatives are really more expensive than prison because offenders are free to commit additional crimes against society."	30	47	23
"Alternatives are not harsh enough; offenders should be punished to the full extent of the law."	22	58	21

Note: Due to rounding, percentages may not always add to 100%.

We should also stress that in the discussions the issues of cost or reducing overcrowding *per se* were of secondary importance when people considered when to use alternatives. (Indeed, whenever the subject of cost came up, at least one respondent would suggest that the offender be forced to foot the bill.) By far, the most important consideration was public safety. To the extent that people thought an alternative would accomplish this goal, it was enthusiastically supported. But if an alternative was believed to be only less expensive, support was lukewarm. And if an alternative was felt to be less expensive but of greater risk, it was ruled out.

Respondents were also asked to react to the argument that alternatives are really more expensive because instead of putting offenders behind bars, alternatives leave them free to commit additional crimes. While three in 10 accepted this view, nearly half disagreed, and 23 percent were not sure. Together the results suggest that while people may not initially accept this argument, their opinions will be fluid and subject to change depending on events. *(See Table 14.)*

Assessment of the Options

Respondents were given five possible alternatives to prison and probation. Each alternative sentence was described in some detail, and respondents were asked for their assessments. Their responses varied, as explained below.

Alabamians had mixed feelings about "strict" probation, making it one of the less popular alternatives. Respondents preferred alternatives that emphasize work to those that merely control an offender's time and activities.

The first alternative presented to the 422 respondents was intensively supervised probation, or what we called strict probation. In contrast to regular probation, in which we said an offender visits his probation officer once a month, strict probation was said to require an offender to meet his probation officer up to five times a week. Some of these meetings might be unannounced visits to the offender's home where a probation officer would administer a breathalyzer or urine test to check for illegal alcohol or drug use.

Those who supported strict probation did so for several reasons. A Huntsville woman liked this alternative for offenders who she felt were not likely to harm anyone. "We have a famous criminal here in Huntsville who swindled so many people," she said. "They put him in prison, and they recovered a lot of the money. I think he should be let out on this [strict probation]. It's not a violent crime; there must be a lot of people in prison who aren't violent criminals," she added, implying that they would be good candidates for strict probation.

A few liked this alternative because of the money it would save. A man from Mobile said that with strict probation you're cutting "$7,000 off the tab to the taxpayers." Another man from Mobile said, "There are some people who may get scared enough [on strict probation] that you can watch them and still save money, and they won't commit another crime."

A Mobile area man expressed a common view when he said, "This alternative would make sense for some young and first-time offenders." Some people liked the monitoring this alternative involves. A Florence woman said, "With strict probation you don't need to trust the person because you've got your eyes on him." Importantly, there was virtual unanimity that strict probation should not be for violent offenders. A man from Huntsville said,

"I really like this as long as it's for nonviolent crimes."

But in spite of these sentiments, strict probation was one of the least popular alternatives. Many respondents had reservations. Some said it was not restrictive enough. "If you can put somebody on strict probation, that means you can't trust him," said a man from Mobile. "And if you can't trust him, you might as well put him in prison." A Birmingham woman added, "I think [strict probation] is more trouble for the probation officer than for the offender."

Another reservation was that strict probation did not involve punishment of any kind and would therefore seem too lenient to deter other criminals as well as the immediate offender. A woman from Birmingham said, "In my view no [type of] probation, by itself, is any kind of punishment." Several people nodded in agreement.

Respondents were told the cost of this alternative was about $3,000 per year, per offender, or roughly triple the cost of regular probation. Several people resented the fact that taxpayers would have to pay the extra cost. A woman from Huntsville expressed the sentiments of many when she asked: "Why couldn't the offender cover some of this [extra] cost? If he's working, take a percentage of his salary."

But the final criticism of strict probation was the most important. Respondents felt that it did not require the offender to do anything productive, such as work. Therefore, they concluded, the alternative would not promote rehabilitation. A Birmingham woman said, "I don't think [strict probation] by itself will rehabilitate people." Some people wanted to add drug treatment programs or employment and educational programs to a sentence of strict probation. A woman from Birmingham said, "If you don't have a follow-up of some kind of education, [offenders] are going to go right back out and do it again. If they're on drugs or can't get a job on their own, you've got to help them because otherwise they're just going to do it again." Finally, large numbers of respondents wanted to link this alternative to restitution or community service because both of these options require work and, to many respondents, work was seen as the key to rehabilitation.

Respondents liked the idea of restitution, especially when coupled with strict probation.

Requiring offenders to pay back their victims was popular across

the state. Even though respondents knew it was slightly more expensive ($3,500 per year), they clearly preferred strict probation plus restitution to strict probation alone, largely because they thought the idea of restitution would prevent repeat offenses. A Mobile woman said, "If someone steals something and knows he has to pay it back, that will deter him from doing it again. Next time, he's going to think twice." A man from Florence said, "Restitution will make criminals realize there's no getting off scot-free. They'll have to pay for what they've done. I think there's a problem with our society now that people [are not made to pay] if they do something." A number of people talked about the importance of making an offender come face-to-face with his victim, saying it might stir his conscience to see the damage he had done. A man from Florence said, "When I was 10, my friends and I shot out some schoolhouse windows with a slingshot. The windows cost a dime then, and we had to pay to replace them. I've respected glass ever since."

Respondents also expressed the view that restitution would help "make the victim whole," by healing the psychological wounds caused by a crime like robbery. A woman from Huntsville said, "If all you lost was money and you got it back [through restitution], then I'd say justice was done." A man from Florence described how he felt when those who victimized him were let off without having to pay him back. "We had young folks break into our motel," he said. "They stole a television and damaged our property. I went to the hearing. But the judge only gave them probation. I stood up in court and asked the judge, 'What about restitution? They stole my television.' The district attorney said, 'Boy, you better shut your mouth or we'll get you for contempt.' I've never been so mad in my life!"

Some respondents thought this alternative would be particularly effective with young offenders. A woman from Huntsville said, "Restitution would be good for younger people because chances are, if they're doing bad things, they probably don't know what to do with their time. But this would channel their energies in the right direction. Do it right the first time and try to rehabilitate them." Other people said this would be an appropriate punishment for white-collar criminals. A man from Mobile said, "Just about all white collar crime can be paid back." A Birmingham woman added, "White collar criminals don't want to go to jail, they'll go to extremes to avoid it. [Restitution] would reduce some of the prison overcrowding."

However, several respondents worried that this alternative might be unfair, that wealthy offenders could make restitution payments easily while poor offenders could not. In such cases, people said, using this alternative would be discriminatory and unfair. For example, a man from Birmingham said, "If [an offender] were well-off, he could pay in the first month. But a poor person might have to work five years" to pay back the same amount. A woman from Birmingham expressed a similar view. "Suppose [an offender] doesn't have a skill. You can't just make him get a job."

Several people devised ways to deal with this situation. In Huntsville, a woman said, "If an offender is poor, you could take a [proportionate amount of money]. I'm not saying take it to the point that his family would go hungry." A woman from Mobile offered this idea: "Restitution is not feasible if [an offender] doesn't have the assets to pay me back. Then the next [best] thing is community service, like cleaning up the park. If they can't pay me back, at least they can pay back society." A woman from Birmingham reached the same conclusion with regard to young offenders. "If you give [restitution] to a young person, he might not have the wherewithal to make [the payments]," she said. "But I think community service might be just the thing for a young offender."

Finally, a number of respondents volunteered that enforcement of this alternative should be very strict. "If an offender misses a payment, put him in jail for a time," said a woman from Huntsville to general agreement in her group. "Or make him do hard labor like picking up paper along the road or something like that until he feels like working again" and resumes his payments.

Respondents liked the idea of community service, which requires offenders to do productive work in the community.

Many respondents felt that community service, wherein an offender is required to work for a specified number of hours at a public service job such as erasing graffiti, cleaning up a park, or painting a public building, would be an appropriate punishment in cases where there was no individual victim. A man from the Florence area said, "If it's a crime against society, not one person, like damaging public property, I'd favor [community service]."

A number of people saw community service as a cost-effective approach. "I think [community service] is a good thing," said a man from Montgomery, "and we'd be saving the community a lot of money because you don't have to pay someone [else] to do it."

A number of people liked community service for the same reasons they liked restitution: the alternative requires offenders to do hard work and pay for their offenses. As noted earlier, many felt that work, in and of itself, has the potential to rehabilitate because it is simultaneously difficult and disciplined. "[Offenders] could pick up trash along the side of the road," said a man from Birmingham. A woman from that city said, "They spoke about community service on the news and about the people who were out doing the work. [The offenders] said how elated they felt to be out helping people. It gave them the feeling that they were doing something constructive." "Community service is where self-worth comes in," said a man from Birmingham, because an individual's self-esteem increases as work is successfully completed.

A number of people said community service would be most appropriate for young offenders. A woman from the Florence area said, "Young people who really aren't hardened criminals but have been in some kind of straits, I'd give them strict probation plus community service and put their minds on cleaning up the town." A woman from Florence liked this alternative for young offenders because, she said, "the most heart-rending thing to me is to send a young boy into prison with a bunch of hardened criminals."

Some people said this alternative should be used for cases of driving under the influence of alcohol. A woman from Huntsville said, "Community service works good for drunk drivers. If you are a middle-class citizen and you do something wrong, and then you know you're going to be picking up litter along the highway while your neighbors are coming home, that would work." Another woman echoed that thought. "Public embarrassment would be good for drunk drivers," she said, "because a lot of prestigious people are drunk drivers."

A handful of respondents foresaw problems with making offenders do community service. A man from Birmingham said, "We talk a lot about prisoners working, but if the prisoners are out there building roads, you've already got double-digit unemployment in this state. There are honest people who could be getting minimum wage [doing those jobs]." But most felt that such difficulties could be ironed out.

Respondents did not particularly like house arrest, largely because they thought it was too easy and did not have any rehabilitative potential.

The fourth alternative respondents considered was house arrest, in which electronic monitoring and spot visits ensure that an offender stays at home for a lengthy period of time. Along with strict probation, house arrest was less popular than the other alternatives. Some objected to what they saw as the comparative ease of this punishment. Many said this option did not require an offender to work or do anything productive. A Birmingham man said, "In house arrest, [an offender] would be vegetating too much." "Say the problem is drinking," a woman from the Huntsville area suggested. "I think one stipulation should be that [the offender] join Alcoholics Anonymous." She felt that things such as AA and drug treatment programs "should be tacked on to any alternative, but especially to house arrest because there's no rehabilitation by just sitting in your house." More than any other factor, the fact that this alternative merely confined an offender without requiring him to do anything limited its popularity.

Respondents were told the terms of house arrest could vary and that, in some cases, an offender could be permitted to leave home to go to and from his job. A woman from Montgomery said, "I think house arrest would make sense for someone who has or can get a regular job." But a woman from Birmingham had a different view. "A person [on house arrest] can commit a crime on their way to and from work," she said. "They are going to get out of their house sometime and who knows what's going to happen."

Some respondents raised another objection to this alternative: that criminals could operate from their home. A woman from Mobile said, "A dope dealer [on house arrest] can have people come in his house and do whatever he wants and commit more crimes." In other cities, especially Mobile, people voiced similar concerns about drug dealers and about those who might receive stolen property or commit other crimes inside their homes.

In spite of its comparatively low popularity, house arrest was deemed to be an acceptable option by a substantial number of people. A woman from the Florence area said, "My first reaction is to say it's too easy, but then I think about [what it means to be confined to your house] and it seems hard." A man from Birmingham said, "House arrest is a good way to keep an offender who's done a violent crime, but not a horrible crime, off the streets." Many liked the level of control this alternative involves. A Florence woman said, "I think house arrest would be effective if someone was watching [an offender] or someone was going to call.

It would be awful living in the constant fear of someone catching you doing something you are not supposed to do. Just think of how terrible it would be to be home constantly."

Respondents were enthusiastic about boot camp. Along with community service and restitution it was one of the most popular alternatives.

The fifth alternative, boot camp, was described as a short-term, "shock" incarceration in which offenders would be treated much as they are in a regular military boot camp — they rise at dawn, and do a great deal of physical labor and calisthenics during the day in a military-like atmosphere. While the actual facility would be near or adjacent to a prison, those in boot camp would be kept apart from the regular prison inmates.

Along with restitution and community service, the idea of hard work for its own sake was a popular feature. A man from Florence said, "If boot camp includes hard labor, it would be all right then." People said hard work would help instill a sense of self-discipline in the offenders. A man from Birmingham said: "I was in boot camp [in the military] and it did a world of good for me and it would do a world of good for first offenders."

Another benefit many said would grow out of boot camp was an increase in an offender's sense of self-esteem. Some said low self-esteem, along with low self-discipline, were root causes of criminal behavior and that boot camp was a place where offenders might acquire both. A Mobile man said, "Boot camp is going to build self-esteem and that's really what they've lost. If they had a normal level, they wouldn't be [incarcerated] in the first place."

Nearly everyone wanted to limit boot camp to the young. A man from Birmingham said, "I like boot camp for a young man. But an older man would probably die [from the regimen]." Another man from that city said, "A first offender who has energy, you can probably steer him in the right direction. But when he gets past 20 or 25 years old, you're going to have a problem." A woman from the Florence area said, "[Boot camp] would teach some youngsters, ideally 15, 18, 19 years old. They've never had anyone say, 'You do this.' It would teach youngsters something that they never learned at home, or society never taught them." A man from Montgomery said boot camp "should be almost like a military school, where classrooms are conducted with order and people march to school."

Nearly everyone felt that boot camp should include high school equivalency courses, job training, and counseling, so offenders would have a better chance of making a successful transition after being released. A man from Huntsville said, "If you add [educational and job training programs], I'll change my mind about boot camp. It should be geared toward rehabilitation." A man from the Birmingham area said, "You need direction, even in boot camp. Like [those] in the army, [offenders sentenced to boot camp] need to have a goal, [to] know they're going for some kind of career. You must have motivation, not just strict labor."

A number of respondents, especially women, were concerned about one aspect of this alternative. They felt that badgering an offender would be counterproductive. A woman from Huntsville said, "A problem with a lot of these kids is that they have low self-esteem and they're angry on the inside. In boot camp, the sergeant is up there saying: 'You no-good slob, you're dirt, you're scum.' My husband was in boot camp [in the army]. They tell you how scummy you are. How is that going to help? A person would feel like they're even worse. I like the discipline and the structure and the hard work. But let's keep the B.S. out of it."

As with most alternatives, the cost of boot camp was seldom raised spontaneously as a concern. However, when asked, people generally saw boot camp as less expensive than prison, both in an immediate sense and in the long run. A woman from Birmingham said, "Boot camp is cheaper than prison partly because the offender won't come back." Finally, several respondents made it clear that, as with the other alternatives, they wanted boot camp to be enforced strictly. A man from Florence said, "I think it should be provisional that if a person flunks out or just doesn't do what's required, the next step would be prison."

Related Issues

Respondents were asked about several other related issues, including the enforcement of alternative sentences and the use of community-based halfway houses or restitution centers.

Respondents felt that *any* violation of an alternative sentence, no matter how minor, should be dealt with strictly.

The people in the groups were asked to judge three instances in which an offender violated the terms of an alternative sentence of strict probation. Each case involved a 24-year-old shoplifter with two prior convictions. After two stints on regular probation, respondents were told, a judge sentenced this man to several months of strict probation.

The violations increased in seriousness: In the first case, the offender was said to have overslept and missed a meeting with his probation officer; in the second, traces of an illegal drug were detected by a mandatory urinalysis; in the third case, the offender was caught shoplifting again. Even with the first violation in which the offender overslept and missed a scheduled meeting with his probation officer, a large majority, 67 percent, wanted to sentence him to a more severe alternative or to prison. The most popular option was adding community service to his sentence of strict probation, chosen by 25 percent. Only 19 percent were willing to let the offender stay on strict probation alone, in effect giving him another chance with no additional penalty. *(See Chart 7 and Table 15.)*

In the second case in which the offender was caught using drugs, 94 percent wanted to increase the severity of his punishment. The number who wanted the offender sent directly to prison more than tripled, from eight percent in the first case to 29 percent. In addition, a large minority, 36 percent, wanted to send the offender to boot camp. Only three percent wanted to overlook the violation and allow the offender to remain on strict probation. *(See Table 15.)*

In the third case in which the offender was caught shoplifting again, 95 percent wanted to increase the severity of his punishment. Nearly half the respondents, 47 percent, wanted to put him in prison, while another 30 percent wanted to send him to boot camp. That is, 77 percent wanted this offender locked up, while only one percent wanted to keep him on strict probation. *(See Table 15.)*

15 Preferences About How To Handle Violation of an Alternative Sentence (Posttest)

VIOLATION #1: Offender on strict probation oversleeps and misses a meeting with his probation officer. Offender should be sentenced to:

Sentence	In favor %	Total supporting increased severity of punishment %
Regular probation	5	
Strict probation	19	
Strict probation and restitution	10	
Strict probation and community service	25	67
House arrest	10	
Boot camp	15	
Prison	8	
Not sure	11	

VIOLATION #2: A mandatory urine test shows that the offender has used drugs. Offender should be sentenced to:

Sentence	In favor %	Total supporting increased severity of punishment %
Regular probation	—	
Strict probation	3	
Strict probation and restitution	5	
Strict probation and community service	13	94
House arrest	12	
Boot camp	36	
Prison	29	
Not sure	5	

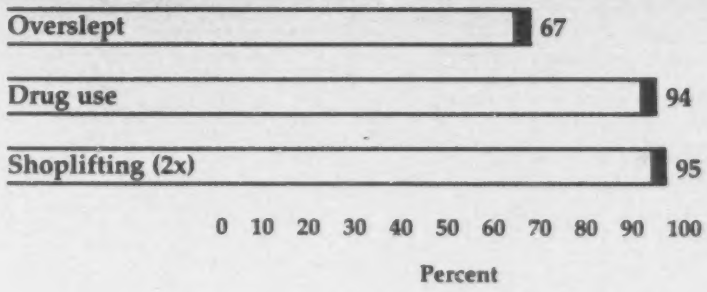
Table 15 continued next page ▶

Table 15 continued

VIOLATION #3: Offender was caught shoplifting again. Offender should be sentenced to:

Sentence	In favor %	Total supporting increased severity of punishment %
Regular probation	2	
Strict probation	1	
Strict probation and restitution	8	
Strict probation and community service	5	95
House arrest	5	
Boot camp	30	
Prison	47	
Not sure	4	

CHART 7: High Numbers Favor Harsher Sentences For Strict Probation Violation (Posttest)



In sum, support for using alternatives was widespread and strong, but conditional. Support depended on what respondents saw as strict enforcement of the terms of the alternative. People made it clear they would not tolerate even minor violations of a sentence. A man from Montgomery put it this way: "Hey, he had his chance." Respondents felt that using alternatives would give offenders a second chance, and that a second chance should be strictly enforced.

A number of respondents voiced dissatisfaction with the juvenile justice system; many also took an offender's age into consideration when determining sentences, because they saw more potential for rehabilitating younger offenders.

A Huntsville area woman said, "The juvenile system in Huntsville is terrible. Where do you send a youngster who's gotten into trouble and needs help and counseling and education? They shouldn't be tossed into some prison or detention center. *That* won't help them, but that's what's happening." As noted earlier in the report, many respondents volunteered that young offenders would be especially good candidates for every alternative, implying that the current system could be improved upon rather easily.

The age of an offender made a difference to many respondents when they were asked to pass sentence. People were given two cases involving young offenders. One was of a 15-year-old first-time burglar. In the pretest, about three out of four, 74 percent, wanted to put the youth on probation and 20 percent said he should be incarcerated. In a similar case involving an adult, 31 percent wanted him incarcerated. *(See Table 16.)*

A second case involved a 15-year-old who "pulled a knife on a woman and demanded money. When she resisted, he slashed her arm." Initially, respondents treated the youth much as they treated an adult who took a woman's purse at gunpoint. In the pretest, with their choice limited to two options, 78 percent put the 15-year-old in a prison for juveniles compared to 93 percent who wanted to incarcerate an adult who committed a similar crime. But after learning about the alternatives, respondents treated the two quite differently. While 60 percent continued to favor prison for the adult, only 33 percent wanted to send the 15-year-old to prison. *(See Table 17.)*

16 Treatment of a Juvenile Compared to an Adult Offender: Burglary (Pre- and Posttest)

OFFENDER IS: a 15-year-old burglar *(First offense)*	Pretest %	Posttest %	Total Favoring Alternatives %
Regular probation	74	38	
Strict probation	—	11	
Strict probation and restitution	—	22	
Strict probation and community service	—	7	58
House arrest	—	1	
Boot camp	—	17	
Prison (for juvenile offenders)	20	4	
Not sure	6	2	

OFFENDER IS: an adult burglar *(First offense)*	Pretest %	Posttest %	Total Favoring Alternatives %
Regular probation	64	22	
Strict probation	—	12	
Strict probation and restitution	—	38	
Strict probation and community service	—	9	72
House arrest	—	2	
Boot camp	—	11	
Prison	31	7	
Not sure	6	1	

Note: Due to rounding, percentages may not always add to 100% and may differ slightly from those in text.

17 Treatment of a Juvenile Compared to an Adult Offender: Armed Robbery (Pre- and Posttest)

OFFENDER IS: **a 15-year-old armed robber** *(First offense)*	**Pretest** %	**Posttest** %	**Total Favoring Alternatives** %
Regular probation	18	5	
Strict probation	—	6	
Strict probation and restitution	—	11	
Strict probation and community service	—	9	63
House arrest	—	2	
Boot camp	—	35	
Prison (for juvenile offenders)	78	33	
Not sure	4	1	

OFFENDER IS: **an adult armed robber** *(Third offense)*	**Pretest** %	**Posttest** %	**Total Favoring Alternatives** %
Regular Probation	4	2	
Strict Probation	—	5	
Strict Probation and Restitution	—	12	
Strict Probation and Community Service	—	4	38
House Arrest	—	3	
Boot Camp	—	14	
Prison	93	60	
Not sure	2	1	

Note: Due to rounding, percentages may not always add to 100% and may differ slightly from those in text.

We also asked respondents at what age an offender should be treated as an adult in cases involving both violent crime and less serious crime. A large majority, 70 percent, said anyone who is 16 or older and commits the most serious crimes such as murder should be punished as an adult. The same number said 16 was the proper age to treat offenders as adults for less serious crimes such as burglary or drug selling. In a nationwide study conducted by CBS/The New York Times in 1981, a somewhat smaller majority, 58 percent, agreed that anyone who is 16 or older should be punished as an adult for violent crimes. *(See Table 18.)*

Finally, a few people said more attention should be paid to crime prevention through early intervention. A Huntsville woman said, "The thing is, start at the bottom, start when they're young and start to teach them. Then we might not need [to make so much use of] prison."

18 The Age at which Juvenile Offenders Should be Treated As Adults (Posttest)

"At which age do you think children who commit the most serious crimes such as murder should be treated and punished as adults?"

Age	Posttest %
Sixteen years old and over	70
Fifteen years old and younger	19
Not sure	11

"At which age do you think children who commit crimes such as robbery, burglary and selling drugs should be treated and punished as adults?"

Age	Posttest %
Sixteen years old and over	70
Fifteen years old and younger	23
Not sure	8

If violent offenders and drug pushers were screened out, most respondents said they would accept a restitution center in their communities.

In the posttest, respondents were given this description of a restitution center: "A house where about a dozen offenders live while they pay back their victim for their crime. None of these offenders committed a violent crime, but some of them may have been convicted of selling drugs." Respondents were to assume that the center would be run strictly.

Respondents were first asked whether restitution centers sound like a good idea in a general sense. The Alabamians overwhelmingly said yes. By a margin of 76 percent to 13 percent, they said the idea of a community-based restitution center for nonviolent offenders was a good one. *(See Table 19.)*

But what people favor in the abstract is often different from what they will support when their own community is involved. So we followed up the first question by asking if respondents would agree to have restitution centers located in their own community. A sharply reduced number, 51 percent, said they would agree to locating a center in their own community, and 26 percent opposed the idea, an increase from the 13 percent who said such centers were a bad idea in a general sense. *(See Table 19.)*

These results exemplify the NIMBY, or Not-In-My-Back-Yard, phenomenon. Similar fall-offs occur when people are asked about the location of nuclear power plants, certain manufacturing facilities, and, of course, new prisons.

To probe opinions in Alabama, we asked a second time about locating a restitution center, this time screening out both violent offenders and those who had committed drug-related crimes. If the hypothetical restitution center screened out both violent offenders and those convicted of drug abuse, a significantly larger number of respondents, 63 percent, were willing to have such centers in their communities. *(See Table 19.)*

There were two interesting differences in how various groups felt about the issue. First, those who now live within five miles of an Alabama state prison were significantly more willing to accept a restitution center, with 71 percent agreeing as long as the strict conditions were met. This result suggests that these people feel safe with the current system and confident about its operations. Second, those who live in rural areas were less certain about accept-

19 Views on a Hypothetical Community Restitution Center (Posttest)

	Yes %	No %	Not Sure %
"Does a restitution center sound like a good idea to you?"	76	13	12
"If none of the offenders had committed a *violent* crime, would you accept a restitution center in your community?"	51	26	22
"If none of the offenders had committed a *violent crime or a drug-related crime*, would you accept a restitution center in your community?"	63	19	19

Note: Due to rounding, percentages may not always add to 100%.

ing a restitution center. Among rural Alabamians, 57 percent would accept a center, and 29 percent were not sure, an indication that their verdict depends on the particulars of the centers and how the idea is understood by the community. *(See Table 19.)*

After learning more about mandatory sentencing laws, respondents expressed mixed feelings about them, with majorities simultaneously saying they strongly favored such laws and that these laws should be modified, at least under certain circumstances.

On one hand, a majority, 52 percent, said they strongly favored the use of mandatory sentencing. But at the same time, many doubted whether such laws were effective in reducing crime. Only

one-third of the respondents said mandatory sentencing laws "have done a lot to reduce crime," while 38 percent said they have not reduced crime, and 29 percent were not sure. *(See Table 20.)*

In the national debate about mandatory sentencing laws, there has been discussion about whether these laws exacerbate prison overcrowding. The documentary video the participants saw offered several explanations for prison overcrowding. One was that stricter laws are causing offenders to go to prison more often or to serve longer sentences.

After seeing the film and discussing the issue, the Alabama respondents said, by a margin of 46 percent to 36 percent, that mandatory sentencing laws are a "major cause of prison overcrowding." Again, however, there was much uncertainty, and 18 percent were not sure. *(See Table 20.)*

20 Views About Mandatory Sentencing Laws (Posttest)

Statement	Agree %	Disagree %	Not Sure %
"Laws requiring a mandatory sentence should be adjusted to give judges more flexibility when sentencing convicted criminals."	61	22	17
"I strongly favor the use of mandatory sentencing laws."	52	23	26
"Mandatory sentencing laws are a major cause of prison overcrowding."	46	36	18
"Mandatory sentencing laws have done a lot to reduce crime."	33	38	29

Note: Due to rounding, percentages may not always add to 100%.

We also asked whether mandatory sentencing laws should be adjusted to give judges more flexibility when sentencing convicted criminals. This position is, of course, a contradiction of the intent of mandatory sentencing in which a judge's discretion is severely curtailed or eliminated. A solid majority of the Alabama respondents, 61 percent, wanted mandatory sentencing laws to be adjusted to give judges more flexibility. Only 22 percent were opposed to this change, and 17 percent were not sure. *(See Table 20.)*

In sum, the more people learned about mandatory sentencing, the more confused they became. Much of respondents' support for mandatory sentencing would seem to reflect their low confidence in the system's ability to mete out what are felt to be harsh enough sentences. We surmise that public support for mandatory sentencing in the future will hinge on this same factor: the level of public confidence in the criminal justice system.

Relating Sentencing to Race, Gender, Age and Geography

Respondents were divided into key demographic and geographic segments. The results suggest that support for alternatives is broadly based.

Alabamians living in both urban and rural areas favored the extensive use of alternative sentences in a wide variety of cases.

On the key question of exactly when to use alternative sentences, the views of Alabamians who lived in rural areas were generally similar to those held by urban residents. This result suggests the depth and breadth of public support for alternatives in that rural Alabamians, perhaps one of the most conservative groups in the state, were strongly in favor of using them. With a wide variety of offenders and cases, ranging from drunk driving to armed robbery by a 15-year-old, overwhelming numbers of both rural and urban Alabamians favored using one of the five alternative sentences. In fact, rural Alabamians were somewhat more likely to favor using an alternative in one case, a petty theft where an offender was convicted for the fifth time. In that case, 62 percent of rural Alabamians wanted to use an alternative sentence, compared to 49 percent among urban residents. *(See Table 21.)*

Black and white Alabamians had similar views about crime and criminals. Both groups were concerned about rising crime, both supported capital punishment, and both favored using alternatives in a wide variety of cases. But while the two groups had the same general views, black Alabamians were more in favor of using alternatives in certain cases.

Black and white respondents were both deeply concerned about crime. At least 80 percent among both groups said that crime has gotten worse over the past few years. In the discussion groups, blacks and whites talked about crime in their neighborhoods and communities. One black woman from Florence said, "It seems like a lot of murdering around here is because of drugs."

Both black and white Alabamians also favored using alternative sentences for a wide variety of crimes and offenders. In most of the 23 cases, support for using alternatives differed by only a few percentage points between black and white Alabamians. For example, in sentencing a third-time drug seller who was also an addict seeking treatment, 65 percent of the black Alabamians fa-

21 Comparison of Support for Using Alternatives in Selected Cases: Urban vs. Rural Alabamians (Posttest)

Circumstances of the offender	Rural %	Urban %	Difference %
Petty theft, fifth offense	62	49	13
Selling drugs, seeking treatment, third offense	71	66	5
Armed robbery by a 15-year-old, first offense	65	62	3
Petty theft, third offense	77	75	2
Petty theft, woman, fifth offense	74	74	—
Selling drugs, first offense	60	62	2
Petty theft, first offense	45	47	2
Armed robbery, third offense	36	38	2
Drunk driving, second offense	86	89	3
Rape, first offense	14	23	9

vored using an alternative compared to 69 percent among white Alabamians.

Similarly, in the case of a fifth-time female petty thief who had two jobs and four children, 79 percent of black Alabamians favored using an alternative sentence, compared to 78 percent among whites. *(See Table 23.)*

However, support for alternatives was higher among black Alabamians in six cases. In the case of the driver of the getaway car involved in an armed robbery and shooting, 61 percent of blacks favored the use of alternatives, compared to 46 percent of whites. With the accomplice who fell asleep in the back of the car, 69 percent of black Alabamians favored sentencing him to an alternative, compared to 56 percent of whites. And in four other cases, each involving an offender convicted for at least the third time, black Alabamians were more likely to favor using alternatives by about 10 percentage points. *(See Table 22.)*

22 Comparison of Support for Using Alternatives in Selected Cases: White vs. Black Alabamians (Posttest)

Circumstances of the offender	Whites %	Blacks %	Difference %
Armed robbery and shooting, getaway driver, second offense	46	61	15
Armed robbery and shooting, sleeping accomplice, second offense	56	69	13
Armed robbery, third offense	35	46	11
Drug selling, seeking treatment, fifth offense	39	50	11
Petty theft, fifth offense	48	58	10
Petty theft, woman, fifth offense	71	81	10
Petty theft, fifth offense woman working 2 jobs, has 4 kids	78	79	1
Drug selling, seeking treatment, third offense	69	65	4

While support for using alternatives was widespread among men and women of all age groups, the greatest support for using alternatives came from women who were 45 or younger.

To understand how age and gender might relate to people's views, we divided our respondents into four groups as follows: younger men (18-45), younger women (18-45), older men (46 and over), and older women (46 and over). In eight of the 23 cases, younger women were the most willing to favor using an alternative sentence. Importantly, however, the results also show that younger women differ mainly in the degree to which they favor using alternatives, because in seven of these cases, a majority among all four groups favored using alternatives. *(See Table 23.)*

23 Comparison of Support for Using Alternatives in Selected Cases: Gender and Age (Posttest)

Circumstances of the offender	Younger Women %	Older Women %	Younger Men %	Older Men %
Burglary, second offense	93	82	67	67
Petty theft, woman, fifth offense	91	75	66	55
Burglary, first offense	84	68	69	62
Selling drugs, seeking treatment, third offense	79	68	61	56
Selling drugs, first offense	70	61	57	59
Armed robbery and shooting, sleeping accomplice, second offense	68	58	52	57
Burglary, 15 years of age, first offense	66	56	57	51
Armed robbery and shooting, getaway car driver, second offense	64	52	38	38

Support for alternatives was greater among younger women for crimes that were neither petty nor violent. Four of these cases were property crimes or thefts, two involved the sale of drugs, and two involved nonviolent accomplices to an armed robbery. And while younger women were sometimes more in favor of using alternatives, they favored certain ones. They wanted to use restitution for property crimes, and community service in cases of drunk driving. However, younger women were not more in favor of using strict probation, house arrest, or boot camp than the other groups.

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TECHNICAL APPENDIX

PRISON OVERCROWDING AND ALTERNATIVE SENTENCES: THE VIEWS OF THE PEOPLE OF ALABAMA

by
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January, 1989

Introduction

This technical appendix is a companion volume to Prison Overcrowding and Alternative Sentences: The Views of the People of Alabama, a report by the Public Agenda Foundation prepared for the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation that presents the results of a study of public opinion conducted in Alabama in September and October, 1988. This technical appendix has been prepared for scholars and others interested in a detailed examination of the results of a panel study of 422 Alabamians. Briefly, respondents were given a questionnaire asking them about the prison system in Alabama and to sentence offenders in 23 hypothetical crimes to either prison or probation. After viewing a film about the prison-overcrowding problem and five sentencing alternatives, respondents met in small groups to discuss these issues, and then completed a questionnaire asking them again to sentence the same 23 offenders, this time using either prison or probation or the five alternative sentences. The data are presented in this volume as follows:

I. A question by question presentation of all posttest results showing key demographic breakdowns, in the order they appeared in the questionnaire.

II. A presentation of results showing a comparison of those items used in both the pre- and posttests.

III. A presentation of the pretest results showing key demographic breakdowns, in the order they appeared in the questionnaire.

IV. A detailed description of the research methodology used in the study, including:
-Drawing a Representative Sample of the People of Alabama
by Dr. Phillip Coulter, Director
The Institute for Social Science Research at the Univerity of Alabama

-A comparison of the sample's demographics to the demographics of the five Metropolitan Statistical Areas used in the study and also to the state of Alabama.

V. A copy of the questionnaires, and a copy of the handout given to respondents summarizing each of the alternatives.

VI. A listing of the project staff.

I. POSTTEST SUMMARY TABLES

POSTTEST TABLE 1

AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH STATEMENT: "THE VAST MAJORITY OF CONVICTED CRIMINAL OFFENDERS SHOULD SERVE AT LEAST SOME TIME IN PRISON"

"The vast majority of convicted criminal offenders should serve at least some time in prison."	Agree %	Disagree %	Not sure %
Total	60	26	14
Male	64	24	12
Female	57	27	16
White	61	25	14
Black	62	24	14
18-30	58	27	15
31-45	57	26	17
46-60	63	24	13
61+	68	22	9
Some H.S./less	66	18	17
H.S. grad	60	27	13
Some college	55	31	15
College grad/more	63	28	9
Birmingham	66	24	10
Mobile	57	29	14
Huntsville	50	32	18
Montgomery	60	18	22
Florence*	56	24	20
Urban	61	26	13
Rural	60	22	18

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 2

THE LENGTH OF PRISON SENTENCES: SHOULD THEY BE LONGER OR SHORTER

"In general, do you think prison sentences in Alabama should be..."	Longer %	Shorter %	About the same %	Not sure %
Total	41	7	28	25
Male	35	9	35	22
Female	46	6	21	27
White	38	7	28	27
Black	47	9	24	20
18-30	41	11	26	22
31-45	41	5	26	28
46-60	44	6	28	22
61+	39	5	31	25
Some H.S./less	47	--	23	30
H.S. grad	36	9	35	20
Some college	39	12	24	25
College grad/more	45	6	24	25
Birmingham	43	4	27	27
Mobile	34	12	31	23
Huntsville	42	18	23	17
Montgomery	33	1	32	34
Florence*	59	4	20	17
Urban	41	8	26	25
Rural	39	3	33	25

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 3

WHETHER ALABAMA NEEDS NEW PRISONS

"In your opinion, does the state of Alabama need more prisons, or not?"	Yes %	No %	Not sure %
Total	67	23	11
Male	67	25	8
Female	67	20	13
White	66	22	12
Black	69	25	6
18-30	64	27	10
31-45	64	20	16
46-60	68	27	5
61+	74	15	11
Some H.S./less	77	11	11
H.S. grad	59	30	12
Some college	68	23	9
College grad/more	59	30	11
Birmingham	58	29	12
Mobile	76	13	11
Huntsville	64	28	9
Montgomery	74	22	5
Florence*	84	2	14
Urban	67	23	9
Rural	65	20	16

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 4

SENTENCING: ARMED ROBBERY (3RD OFFENSE)

Put offender in...	Reg. Prob-ation %	Strict Prob. %	Strict Prob.+ Restitu %	Strict Prob.+ ComServ %	House Arrst %	Boot Camp %	Prison %	Not sure %
Total	2	5	12	4	2	14	60	1
Male	3	3	7	3	2	12	72	--
Female	1	8	17	5	3	17	50	1
White	2	2	10	4	2	16	64	1
Black	2	14	14	3	5	10	51	1
18-30	1	4	12	4	5	10	65	--
31-45	1	2	13	2	1	18	63	1
46-60	7	5	14	2	2	15	53	2
61+	1	8	11	8	--	16	57	--
Some H.S./less	4	4	9	7	--	11	65	1
H.S. grad	2	9	15	2	1	17	55	1
Some college	2	2	12	3	6	15	61	--
College grad/more	--	4	12	4	--	11	69	--
Birmingham	1	4	11	2	3	15	64	1
Mobile	3	12	12	5	--	16	54	--
Huntsville	2	3	18	11	4	13	48	--
Montgomery	1	3	11	4	1	10	71	--
Florence*	7	2	10	6	4	16	56	--
Urban	2	6	12	4	2	14	60	1
Rural	2	3	12	6	2	13	62	--

"One night Tom, 25, cornered a woman in an alley. He pointed a loaded gun at her and took her purse. Tom was caught and convicted of armed robbery. Prior to this crime, he was convicted of burglary and selling drugs. The armed robbery was his third offense. Where would you put this offender?"

[Choice of: Probation, Strict Probation, Strict Probation and Restitution, Strict Probation and Community Service, House Arrest, Boot Camp or Prison.]

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 5

SENTENCING: JOYRIDING (1ST OFFENSE)

Put offender in...	Reg. Prob-ation %	Strict Prob. %	Strict Prob.+ Restitu %	Strict Prob.+ ComServ %	House Arrst %	Boot Camp %	Prison %	Not sure %
Total	45	24	9	8	2	10	2	1
Male	42	25	11	6	1	12	4	1
Female	49	23	8	10	3	8	1	1
White	44	24	9	9	2	10	1	1
Black	48	23	9	5	1	9	6	1
18-30	39	30	8	8	4	10	2	1
31-45	43	16	15	10	--	13	3	--
46-60	52	23	1	9	2	9	2	2
61+	51	27	9	3	3	7	1	--
Some H.S./less	50	21	6	2	1	15	4	1
H.S. grad	46	20	13	8	4	10	1	--
Some college	43	31	6	9	2	6	1	1
College grad/more	35	27	15	17	1	5	1	--
Birmingham	39	20	12	9	3	14	2	1
Mobile	49	30	10	6	1	3	2	1
Huntsville	43	36	8	7	2	5	--	--
Montgomery	49	24	4	11	2	7	4	--
Florence*	68	11	--	--	--	21	--	--
Urban	43	23	10	9	3	11	2	1
Rural	54	29	6	4	--	6	2	--

"Bill, 23, took a joyride in a sports car. He hot-wired the car and drove around for a couple of hours, then returned it undamaged. This was his first offense. Where would you put this offender?"

[Choice of: Probation, Strict Probation, Strict Probation and Restitution, Strict Probation and Community Service, House Arrest, Boot Camp or Prison.]

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 6

SENTENCING: PETTY THEFT (1ST OFFENSE)

Put offender in...	Reg. Prob-ation %	Strict Prob. %	Strict Prob.+ Restitu %	Strict Prob.+ ComServ %	House Arrst %	Boot Camp %	Prison %	Not sure %
Total	51	15	16	6	1	8	2	2
Male	50	14	17	5	2	9	4	2
Female	51	17	15	7	1	8	--	2
White	51	15	16	6	1	9	1	2
Black	49	14	17	7	2	7	4	1
18-30	44	19	19	11	2	5	1	1
31-45	49	14	17	4	2	11	3	--
46-60	52	16	12	6	--	9	3	2
61+	60	10	13	4	--	9	--	4
Some H.S./less	51	14	11	2	2	15	2	4
H.S. grad	52	13	17	11	1	5	2	--
Some college	51	17	16	6	1	7	2	1
College grad/more	46	20	24	5	1	4	1	--
Birmingham	43	15	20	9	--	8	2	3
Mobile	55	18	16	1	2	6	2	1
Huntsville	54	17	15	7	2	5	2	--
Montgomery	58	12	5	7	4	10	3	2
Florence*	59	12	8	--	--	21	--	--
Urban	50	15	16	6	2	8	2	2
Rural	53	17	12	7	--	9	1	1

"Bob, 24, was caught after stealing a $150 radio from a store. It was his first offense. Where would you put this offender?"

[Choice of: Probation, Strict Probation, Strict Probation and Restitution, Strict Probation and Community Service, House Arrest, Boot Camp or Prison.]

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 7

SENTENCING: PETTY THEFT (3RD OFFENSE)

Put offender in...	Reg. Prob-ation %	Strict Prob. %	Strict Prob.+ Restitu %	Strict Prob.+ ComServ %	House Arrst %	Boot Camp %	Prison %	Not sure %
Total	2	16	27	12	5	17	22	3
Male	2	11	19	13	8	19	30	2
Female	3	20	34	11	2	15	14	4
White	1	13	25	15	6	18	22	3
Black	7	25	27	3	1	15	22	4
18-30	5	16	30	12	4	21	15	2
31-45	2	17	31	13	7	11	21	1
46-60	--	21	18	11	8	21	20	2
61+	--	11	25	9	--	14	34	7
Some H.S./less	2	12	23	11	3	15	31	7
H.S. grad	3	17	24	12	7	15	23	--
Some college	2	18	32	12	4	18	13	3
College grad/more	--	17	35	8	3	21	16	--
Birmingham	2	14	27	7	3	21	28	2
Mobile	5	18	27	14	4	16	19	1
Huntsville	--	20	42	5	7	9	7	10
Montgomery	--	8	18	31	7	13	23	2
Florence*	6	35	16	4	7	16	17	--
Urban	3	17	26	12	4	17	23	2
Rural	--	14	31	11	7	15	17	5

"Now suppose that when Bob was arrested, he had two previous convictions for shoplifting. If we add it up, stealing the radio is his third offense. Where would you put this offender?"

[Choice of: Probation, Strict Probation, Strict Probation and Restitution, Strict Probation and Community Service, House Arrest, Boot Camp or Prison.]

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 8

SENTENCING: PETTY THEFT (5TH OFFENSE)

Put offender in...	Reg. Prob-ation %	Strict Prob. %	Strict Prob.+ Restitu %	Strict Prob.+ ComServ %	House Arrst %	Boot Camp %	Prison %	Not sure %
Total	2	4	14	8	8	17	46	2
Male	2	2	10	6	7	17	57	1
Female	2	5	17	11	10	18	35	4
White	1	2	11	8	8	19	49	3
Black	3	11	19	9	6	13	40	1
18-30	5	4	14	12	9	13	46	1
31-45	--	3	14	9	13	19	41	2
46-60	--	6	14	6	8	15	51	2
61+	--	3	14	5	3	22	48	6
Some H.S./less	4	5	9	4	8	13	53	5
H.S. grad	--	4	12	11	4	19	49	2
Some college	1	2	17	10	13	19	39	1
College grad/more	1	4	23	6	12	16	37	2
Birmingham	1	5	12	7	7	19	49	2
Mobile	2	2	17	8	5	17	50	--
Huntsville	--	--	24	10	13	20	27	8
Montgomery	4	--	7	11	6	15	52	4
Florence*	--	14	11	10	24	12	31	--
Urban	2	4	14	7	7	16	49	1
Rural	--	1	14	13	12	21	34	7

"Now imagine that Bob has been convicted for shoplifting four times before he stole the radio. That makes this his fifth offense. Where would you put this offender?"

[Choice of: Probation, Strict Probation, Strict Probation and Restitution, Strict Probation and Community Service, House Arrest, Boot Camp or Prison.]

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 9

SENTENCING: PETTY THEFT (5TH OFFENSE, BUT WITH MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES)

Put offender in...	Reg. Probation %	Strict Prob. %	Strict Prob.+ Restitu %	Strict Prob.+ ComServ %	House Arrst %	Boot Camp %	Prison %	Not sure %
Total	5	10	15	10	26	5	27	3
Male	6	10	14	10	25	4	30	2
Female	5	11	16	9	27	6	24	5
White	6	8	13	9	28	5	28	4
Black	4	17	22	11	19	4	24	2
18-30	4	9	18	11	29	7	25	1
31-45	2	8	17	8	34	5	25	2
46-60	4	17	13	9	15	8	30	6
61+	10	9	11	12	20	2	32	5
Some H.S./less	11	15	7	5	20	2	35	5
H.S. grad	4	6	18	9	28	6	27	3
Some college	2	10	16	14	28	8	22	3
College grad/more	3	9	24	12	26	2	22	3
Birmingham	4	9	16	9	23	7	31	2
Mobile	3	13	17	8	22	5	33	1
Huntsville	3	10	16	17	27	2	15	11
Montgomery	11	7	11	9	39	5	17	4
Florence*	10	18	9	6	26	--	32	--
Urban	5	11	16	10	20	4	29	2
Rural	6	8	13	10	24	10	20	11

"Finally, imagine that Bob has been convicted for shoplifting a total of five times, but that he also works two jobs and supports a wife and four young children. Where would you put this offender?"

[Choice of: Probation, Strict Probation, Strict Probation and Restitution, Strict Probation and Community Service, House Arrest, Boot Camp or Prison.]

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 10

SENTENCING: MUGGING AND RAPE (1ST OFFENSE)

Put offender in...	Reg. Prob-ation %	Strict Prob. %	Strict Prob.+ Restitu %	Strict Prob.+ ComServ %	House Arrst %	Boot Camp %	Prison %	Not sure %
Total	2	6	3	2	2	8	76	1
Male	2	5	2	2	--	7	81	1
Female	2	7	4	3	3	9	72	2
White	2	5	2	2	1	8	79	1
Black	2	10	6	4	4	8	66	2
18-30	1	6	3	3	4	5	78	1
31-45	1	2	1	1	1	5	91	--
46-60	2	9	2	4	2	10	68	4
61+	4	9	7	2	--	14	63	2
Some H.S./less	4	10	2	1	--	9	72	2
H.S. grad	2	8	2	2	2	7	77	2
Some college	1	2	6	4	2	9	77	1
College grad/more	--	1	1	1	3	7	86	1
Birmingham	2	6	4	2	3	7	75	2
Mobile	--	5	2	6	--	5	81	2
Huntsville	--	8	4	2	2	10	73	--
Montgomery	2	5	2	--	--	12	77	2
Florence*	7	6	--	--	--	16	71	--
Urban	2	6	4	3	2	9	75	1
Rural	3	6	1	1	1	5	83	2

"Gene, 25, mugged a young woman, dragged her into the park, and raped her. He was caught and convicted. This was his first offense. Where would you put this offender?"

[Choice of: Probation, Strict Probation, Strict Probation and Restitution, Strict Probation and Community Service, House Arrest, Boot Camp or Prison.]

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 11

SENTENCING: DRUNK DRIVING (1ST OFFENSE)

Put offender in...	Reg. Prob-ation %	Strict Prob. %	Strict Prob.+ Restitu %	Strict Prob.+ ComServ %	House Arrst %	Boot Camp %	Prison %	Not sure %
Total	43	26	4	13	5	6	2	1
Male	50	21	2	12	6	5	3	2
Female	38	29	7	15	4	7	2	--
White	46	24	4	15	4	5	2	1
Black	39	30	4	9	8	7	4	--
18-30	43	20	4	19	6	5	4	1
31-45	41	26	8	15	6	4	--	--
46-60	45	23	4	10	4	9	2	2
61+	47	36	--	6	1	6	1	1
Some H.S./less	39	30	5	9	3	8	3	3
H.S. grad	49	22	6	13	5	4	1	--
Some college	45	24	3	16	5	5	2	1
College grad/more	35	31	3	18	6	5	1	1
Birmingham	42	24	2	16	6	7	3	1
Mobile	42	31	7	12	8	2	1	1
Huntsville	37	29	10	15	--	7	--	2
Montgomery	48	21	6	12	3	3	6	2
Florence*	63	23	--	--	--	11	--	4
Urban	43	26	5	13	5	7	2	1
Rural	45	25	4	16	5	2	2	2

"One evening, Joe, 23, was caught driving while drunk on a state highway. This was his first offense. Where would you put this offender?"

[Choice of: Probation, Strict Probation, Strict Probation and Restitution, Strict Probation and Community Service, House Arrest, Boot Camp or Prison.]

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 12

SENTENCING: DRUNK DRIVING (2ND OFFENSE)

Put offender in...	Reg. Prob-ation %	Strict Prob. %	Strict Prob.+ Restitu %	Strict Prob.+ ComServ %	House Arrst %	Boot Camp %	Prison %	Not sure %
Total	4	17	33	19	9	11	9	1
Male	3	16	37	15	10	11	10	1
Female	4	18	28	24	9	11	8	--
White	4	14	33	20	9	13	9	--
Black	3	23	33	19	9	6	9	1
18-30	1	15	33	21	12	8	12	--
31-45	2	14	36	22	12	13	6	1
46-60	5	22	24	15	9	15	10	--
61+	8	17	35	17	3	8	10	1
Some H.S./less	8	19	27	13	6	16	13	1
H.S. grad	2	17	38	15	14	9	7	--
Some college	3	15	30	27	8	9	10	1
College grad/more	2	11	36	31	11	5	6	--
Birmingham	4	18	29	15	12	15	10	--
Mobile	2	20	30	19	11	10	10	1
Huntsville	9	9	39	29	3	4	7	--
Montgomery	3	10	41	23	8	1	12	2
Florence*	4	22	37	19	--	18	--	--
Urban	3	17	35	19	8	10	10	--
Rural	7	13	24	23	13	13	6	2

"Now imagine that Joe was caught a second time, and that this time he smashed into a fire hydrant. This is his second drunk driving offense. Where would you put this offender?"

[Choice of: Probation, Strict Probation, Strict Probation and Restitution, Strict Probation and Community Service, House Arrest, Boot Camp or Prison.]

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 13

SENTENCING: BURGLARY BY A 15-YEAR-OLD (1ST OFFENSE)

Put offender in...	Reg. Prob-ation %	Strict Prob. %	Strict Prob.+ Restitu %	Strict Prob.+ ComServ %	House Arrst %	Boot Camp %	Prison# %	Not sure %
Total	38	11	22	7	1	17	4	2
Male	40	13	20	4	2	16	4	3
Female	36	9	24	10	1	19	4	1
White	36	11	26	6	2	16	3	2
Black	39	8	11	12	--	21	9	1
18-30	41	5	25	9	--	19	5	1
31-45	30	17	25	6	3	17	4	--
46-60	34	14	17	7	2	18	4	4
61+	46	12	17	7	1	14	3	2
Some H.S./less	42	15	15	5	3	15	5	2
H.S. grad	37	11	19	8	--	22	5	--
Some college	38	9	29	6	1	14	3	3
College grad/more	31	11	25	10	3	18	2	1
Birmingham	32	10	22	10	2	18	4	2
Mobile	38	16	21	9	1	15	2	2
Huntsville	44	8	35	2	1	8	2	--
Montgomery	41	7	17	1	--	26	8	2
Florence*	51	15	12	4	--	16	2	--
Urban	36	10	23	7	2	18	5	1
Rural	43	15	17	5	--	14	1	4

"Frank is a 15-year-old high school student. He broke into an empty gas station, stole some tools, and broke into a cigarette machine. He was caught and convicted. This was his first offense. Where would you put this offender?"

[Choice of: Probation, Strict Probation, Strict Probation and Restitution, Strict Probation and Community Service, House Arrest, Boot Camp or Prison.]

#Prison for juvenile offenders
*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 14

SENTENCING: PETTY THEFT BY WOMAN (5TH OFFENSE)

Put offender in...	Reg. Prob-ation %	Strict Prob. %	Strict Prob.+ Restitu %	Strict Prob.+ ComServ %	House Arrst %	Boot Camp %	Prison %	Not sure %
Total	3	10	37	10	8	9	23	2
Male	3	8	31	6	9	8	35	1
Female	2	11	42	15	7	10	12	3
White	3	7	37	10	8	9	25	3
Black	2	17	35	11	7	11	19	--
18-30	2	6	40	15	9	13	20	--
31-45	2	11	38	8	9	10	21	2
46-60	9	14	31	8	7	10	20	2
61+	--	10	37	9	6	1	33	5
Some H.S./less	4	13	35	6	5	3	29	7
H.S. grad	1	10	37	13	9	9	23	--
Some college	3	7	36	12	9	14	20	--
College grad/more	3	5	45	10	10	12	18	1
Birmingham	2	13	32	7	9	10	26	2
Mobile	1	11	37	17	6	10	22	--
Huntsville	3	1	45	14	14	4	13	6
Montgomery	2	5	31	10	6	14	31	2
Florence*	13	8	61	--	4	2	12	--
Urban	2	10	38	12	7	8	25	1
Rural	4	8	32	5	13	16	17	5

"Alice, 24, stole a dress worth about $150. When caught and convicted, it was learned that Alice had stolen things worth about $150 four other times over the past few years. That makes stealing the dress her fifth offense. Where would you put this offender?"

[Choice of: Probation, Strict Probation, Strict Probation and Restitution, Strict Probation and Community Service, House Arrest, Boot Camp or Prison.]

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 15

SENTENCING: PETTY THEFT BY WOMAN (5TH OFFENSE, BUT WITH MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES)

Put offender in...	Reg. Prob-ation %	Strict Prob. %	Strict Prob.+ Restitu %	Strict Prob.+ ComServ %	House Arrst %	Boot Camp %	Prison %	Not sure %
Total	4	12	27	10	24	4	18	3
Male	4	10	25	8	25	4	24	2
Female	4	14	29	12	24	5	11	3
White	5	12	28	9	24	5	17	2
Black	2	14	24	15	23	4	17	4
18-30	--	7	31	12	27	8	18	1
31-45	2	11	28	12	28	2	17	3
46-60	6	15	23	8	21	6	18	4
61+	9	19	24	8	18	--	18	3
Some H.S./less	8	21	25	7	13	2	23	2
H.S. grad	3	6	28	9	30	4	19	3
Some college	1	10	28	13	28	7	13	3
College grad/more	3	10	31	16	23	3	13	1
Birmingham	2	12	27	8	26	5	20	2
Mobile	2	14	27	16	19	4	19	2
Huntsville	10	4	37	12	23	1	10	3
Montgomery	4	8	16	6	35	8	18	7
Florence*	7	32	32	13	10	--	7	--
Urban	2	13	27	11	24	3	19	2
Rural	10	8	26	6	26	8	13	4

"Now imagine that Alice has been convicted for shoplifting a total of five times, but that she also worked two jobs and supports four young children. Where would you put this offender?"

[Choice of: Probation, Strict Probation, Strict Probation and Restitution, Strict Probation and Community Service, House Arrest, Boot Camp or Prison.]

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 16

SENTENCING: DRUG SELLING (1ST OFFENSE)

Put offender in...	Reg. Prob-ation %	Strict Prob. %	Strict Prob.+ Restitu %	Strict Prob.+ ComServ %	House Arrst %	Boot Camp %	Prison %	Not sure %
Total	16	27	3	14	3	15	21	1
Male	15	24	3	16	3	12	26	1
Female	18	29	3	13	3	18	16	1
White	13	28	2	16	3	17	20	1
Black	25	24	7	10	2	11	20	2
18-30	18	30	5	12	2	14	21	1
31-45	12	22	4	23	2	13	23	1
46-60	19	13	2	14	9	19	23	2
61+	18	39	--	7	--	17	18	1
Some H.S./less	16	28	1	8	2	17	25	2
H.S. grad	15	25	5	16	5	15	21	1
Some college	21	27	4	17	1	12	18	1
College grad/more	10	23	1	19	3	25	20	--
Birmingham	12	27	2	13	4	18	24	1
Mobile	20	32	8	13	1	10	17	--
Huntsville	23	20	2	15	4	17	18	--
Montgomery	16	26	--	19	2	9	24	4
Florence*	22	20	--	8	--	24	22	4
Urban	16	27	4	15	2	15	22	1
Rural	19	23	1	12	7	17	18	3

"Al, 22, was selling drugs in front of his home when he sold a small amount of cocaine to an undercover police officer. This was Al's first conviction. Where would you put this offender?"

[Choice of: Probation, Strict Probation, Strict Probation and Restitution, Strict Probation and Community Service, House Arrest, Boot Camp or Prison.]

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 17

SENTENCING: DRUG SELLING (3RD OFFENSE)

Put offender in...	Reg. Prob-ation %	Strict Prob. %	Strict Prob.+ Restitu %	Strict Prob.+ ComServ %	House Arrst %	Boot Camp %	Prison %	Not sure %
Total	1	13	5	13	10	27	30	4
Male	--	14	2	5	11	28	38	4
Female	2	11	8	21	9	26	22	4
White	1	12	3	12	12	30	30	2
Black	2	15	10	16	4	20	25	9
18-30	--	8	9	19	9	32	22	5
31-45	--	10	4	13	12	24	36	2
46-60	3	11	4	9	12	22	37	4
61+	4	22	3	9	8	26	27	2
Some H.S./less	4	11	3	9	7	19	45	2
H.S. grad	--	13	7	14	13	29	24	4
Some college	--	12	5	17	10	31	22	4
College grad/more	1	15	2	14	5	30	33	1
Birmingham	--	11	5	9	12	31	28	4
Mobile	--	15	7	16	6	23	34	4
Huntsville	6	11	4	25	1	25	28	--
Montgomery	--	16	3	10	16	21	31	5
Florence*	6	13	--	13	14	28	25	2
Urban	1	14	6	13	9	25	32	3
Rural	4	8	4	14	14	32	20	5

"Now imagine that Al is a drug addict who wants help. He has tried to get into a drug treatment clinic, but there is a six month wait. Also, Al has been convicted of selling drugs twice before. Selling cocaine to the police offices is his third offense. Where would you put this offender?"

[Choice of: Probation, Strict Probation, Strict Probation and Restitution, Strict Probation and Community Service, House Arrest, Boot Camp or Prison.]

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 18

SENTENCING: DRUG SELLING (5TH OFFENSE)

Put offender in...	Reg. Prob-ation %	Strict Prob. %	Strict Prob.+ Restitu %	Strict Prob.+ ComServ %	House Arrst %	Boot Camp %	Prison %	Not sure %
Total	--	5	2	7	7	21	55	5
Male	--	3	1	5	6	17	66	3
Female	--	6	3	10	7	24	44	7
White	--	2	2	6	8	21	59	4
Black	--	13	3	11	4	19	40	11
18-30	--	5	3	11	6	22	47	7
31-45	--	3	2	6	8	18	61	4
46-60	--	4	--	6	6	26	54	5
61+	--	7	2	5	5	20	56	6
Some H.S./less	--	5	--	6	7	16	60	5
H.S. grad	--	7	2	4	7	23	56	4
Some college	--	1	5	10	5	25	49	6
College grad/more	--	7	--	11	5	16	55	7
Birmingham	--	5	2	7	6	23	53	5
Mobile	--	4	1	9	3	16	61	6
Huntsville	--	1	4	11	8	18	49	9
Montgomery	--	4	2	3	10	22	60	2
Florence*	--	12	--	3	10	32	44	--
Urban	--	6	3	9	5	20	55	4
Rural	--	--	--	1	14	23	54	9

"Now imagine that Al has been convicted of selling cocaine a total of four times in the past. He is still an addict and looking for help. Now, selling the cocaine to the police officers is his fifth offense. Where would you put this offender?"

[Choice of: Probation, Strict Probation, Strict Probation and Restitution, Strict Probation and Community Service, House Arrest, Boot Camp or Prison.]

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 19

SENTENCING: BURGLARY (1ST OFFENSE)

Put offender in...	Reg. Prob-ation %	Strict Prob. %	Strict Prob.+ Restitu %	Strict Prob.+ ComServ %	House Arrst %	Boot Camp %	Prison %	Not sure %
Total	22	12	38	9	2	11	7	1
Male	26	7	37	8	3	11	9	1
Female	20	16	40	9	2	10	5	1
White	22	10	41	10	2	12	6	1
Black	25	17	32	5	5	8	10	--
18-30	21	13	37	10	4	12	8	1
31-45	19	12	54	8	--	5	4	--
46-60	23	14	32	3	4	14	8	3
61+	29	9	29	12	2	12	7	1
Some H.S./less	30	13	29	10	1	10	8	2
H.S. grad	21	11	41	6	3	12	7	--
Some college	20	13	42	10	3	9	7	1
College grad/more	16	10	51	11	--	13	1	--
Birmingham	20	11	41	8	3	12	7	1
Mobile	20	13	40	10	3	10	8	2
Huntsville	22	18	44	8	2	6	2	--
Montgomery	27	8	35	10	1	10	7	2
Florence*	45	13	8	4	--	21	10	--
Urban	21	12	38	10	3	11	8	1
Rural	28	12	41	4	1	11	4	2

"Late one night, Phil, 22, picked the lock at an electronics shop and stole a $5,000 stereo. There was no one in the store, Phil was not armed. This was his first offense. Where would you put this offender?"

[Choice of: Probation, Strict Probation, Strict Probation and Restitution, Strict Probation and Community Service, House Arrest, Boot Camp or Prison.]

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 20

SENTENCING: BURGLARY (2ND OFFENSE)

Put offender in...	Reg. Prob-ation %	Strict Prob. %	Strict Prob.+ Restitu %	Strict Prob.+ ComServ %	House Arrst %	Boot Camp %	Prison %	Not sure %
Total	4	17	26	8	8	19	19	2
Male	3	15	22	7	7	17	29	2
Female	4	19	30	10	8	22	9	2
White	3	13	23	10	9	22	21	2
Black	4	30	32	5	4	13	13	--
18-30	2	15	30	9	10	18	19	1
31-45	1	18	24	9	8	20	19	2
46-60	9	14	29	11	8	12	17	2
61+	4	20	19	5	3	28	20	3
Some H.S./less	7	20	19	3	4	19	26	4
H.S. grad	3	16	25	12	8	19	19	1
Some college	2	16	30	11	10	19	13	1
College grad/more	--	13	33	3	10	22	20	--
Birmingham	1	14	24	8	5	24	21	3
Mobile	3	25	34	14	6	9	14	--
Huntsville	8	10	36	4	15	22	8	--
Montgomery	3	15	16	8	9	23	25	4
Florence*	13	29	7	--	10	11	29	--
Urban	3	16	26	9	6	21	21	1
Rural	6	23	26	6	14	14	10	3

"Now imagine that Phil had committed a similar burglary three years ago. That means that stealing the stereo was his second offense. Where would you put this offender?"

[Choice of: Probation, Strict Probation, Strict Probation and Restitution, Strict Probation and Community Service, House Arrest, Boot Camp or Prison.]

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 21

SENTENCING: BURGLARY (2ND OFFENSE, BUT ARMED)

Put offender in...	Reg. Prob-ation %	Strict Prob. %	Strict Prob.+ Restitu %	Strict Prob.+ ComServ %	House Arrst %	Boot Camp %	Prison %	Not sure %
Total	1	8	9	5	6	22	46	3
Male	2	10	4	2	7	20	55	1
Female	1	8	13	7	6	24	38	5
White	1	7	7	3	5	27	48	4
Black	3	12	12	11	10	11	40	1
18-30	3	6	14	6	7	20	45	2
31-45	--	6	5	4	10	22	50	3
46-60	3	10	7	6	3	26	45	1
61+	--	14	9	3	4	21	44	6
Some H.S./less	4	13	8	1	2	16	51	6
H.S. grad	1	9	8	9	6	20	45	3
Some college	--	4	10	4	11	30	40	2
College grad/more	1	7	10	4	5	22	53	--
Birmingham	--	9	7	5	3	26	47	2
Mobile	2	14	12	10	7	21	36	1
Huntsville	--	3	13	--	8	15	53	8
Montgomery	4	6	3	2	10	20	50	5
Florence*	6	--	13	2	9	19	50	--
Urban	2	9	7	6	7	21	48	2
Rural	--	6	16	2	5	27	38	7

"Finally, imagine that when Phil committed these burglaries, he was armed with a loaded pistol, but never used it. It's still his second offense. Where would you put this offender?"

[Choice of: Probation, Strict Probation, Strict Probation and Restitution, Strict Probation and Community Service, House Arrest, Boot Camp or Prison.]

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 22

SENTENCING: ROBBERY INVOLVING THREE MEN (MAN WHO SHOT THE SALESMAN IN THE ARM)

Put offender in...	Reg. Prob-ation %	Strict Prob. %	Strict Prob.+ Restitu %	Strict Prob.+ ComServ %	House Arrst %	Boot Camp %	Prison %	Not sure %
Total	1	2	8	2	2	6	79	2
Male	--	2	4	1	3	5	87	--
Female	1	2	12	3	2	8	72	3
White	--	1	5	2	2	8	83	1
Black	2	5	17	3	4	3	67	2
18-30	--	2	9	3	3	7	78	1
31-45	--	3	5	1	1	5	86	1
46-60	4	--	5	1	4	8	78	1
61+	--	2	12	2	2	6	72	4
Some H.S./less	2	1	14	--	--	1	81	3
H.S. grad	1	2	7	3	5	11	74	--
Some college	--	1	5	3	3	5	83	2
College grad/more	--	2	6	1	--	7	83	3
Birmingham	--	3	12	2	3	9	72	1
Mobile	--	1	9	2	3	4	85	1
Huntsville	2	1	5	2	--	8	75	7
Montgomery	--	--	2	2	4	3	87	2
Florence*	6	--	6	--	--	2	86	--
Urban	1	2	9	2	2	6	79	1
Rural	2	--	6	1	5	7	76	4

"This case involves three men, each of whom has a record for car theft. While driving around one night, they decided to rob a liquor store. They had been drinking heavily and before they got to the store, the third man passed out drunk in the back seat. The first man entered the store with a gun a demanded money while the other two stayed in the car. When the salesman moved, the man panicked, shot him in the arm, and took $400. They were caught, so this is the second offense for each man. Where would you put the man who shot the salesman?"

[Choice of: Probation, Strict Probation, Strict Probation and Restitution, Strict Probation and Community Service, House Arrest, Boot Camp or Prison.]

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 23

SENTENCING: ROBBERY INVOLVING THREE MEN (MAN WHO DROVE GETAWAY CAR)

Put offender in...	Reg. Prob-ation %	Strict Prob. %	Strict Prob.+ Restitu %	Strict Prob.+ ComServ %	House Arrst %	Boot Camp %	Prison %	Not sure %
Total	4	11	10	11	5	12	46	3
Male	2	9	8	6	4	11	60	2
Female	5	12	11	16	6	13	34	5
White	2	9	8	10	5	14	51	3
Black	8	17	17	14	4	8	30	3
18-30	5	11	7	17	6	13	42	3
31-45	2	6	12	11	8	12	49	2
46-60	4	11	6	10	5	17	43	5
61+	2	16	15	4	--	6	53	4
Some H.S./less	7	11	10	8	2	11	49	6
H.S. grad	4	13	8	12	4	13	48	2
Some college	1	10	12	14	9	11	41	2
College grad/more	3	5	10	11	5	17	49	2
Birmingham	4	8	12	7	5	14	48	4
Mobile	2	11	10	21	6	12	42	1
Huntsville	3	10	9	15	6	12	40	7
Montgomery	4	15	4	10	2	8	54	4
Florence*	6	18	6	2	7	13	48	--
Urban	4	10	10	13	4	11	47	2
Rural	2	13	8	4	9	17	43	8

"This case involves three men, each of whom has a record for car theft. While driving around one night, they decided to rob a liquor store. They had been drinking heavily and before they got to the store, the third man passed out drunk in the back seat. The first man entered the store with a gun a demanded money while the other two stayed in the car. When the salesman moved, the man panicked, shot him in the arm, and took $400. They were caught, so this is the second offense for each man. Where would you put the man who drove the getaway car?"

[Choice of: Probation, Strict Probation, Strict Probation and Restitution, Strict Probation and Community Service, House Arrest, Boot Camp or Prison.]

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 24

SENTENCING: ROBBERY INVOLVING THREE MEN (MAN WHO AGREED TO ROBBERY BUT FELL ASLEEP IN CAR)

Put offender in...	Reg. Prob-ation %	Strict Prob. %	Strict Prob.+ Restitu %	Strict Prob.+ ComServ %	House Arrst %	Boot Camp %	Prison %	Not sure %
Total	9	19	7	15	5	13	29	4
Male	5	17	5	14	5	13	39	3
Female	11	21	9	16	5	14	21	6
White	6	18	6	14	6	13	34	6
Black	16	24	12	17	3	14	16	1
18-30	11	18	5	20	4	18	23	5
31-45	7	14	9	15	8	10	37	1
46-60	11	17	6	14	8	12	29	5
61+	6	31	10	9	--	10	27	8
Some H.S./less	11	21	6	13	3	8	36	5
H.S. grad	8	19	9	16	5	14	27	5
Some college	10	19	7	16	6	16	24	4
College grad/more	5	20	7	13	6	12	34	3
Birmingham	7	21	4	10	9	15	30	5
Mobile	8	24	6	23	4	11	26	1
Huntsville	8	16	15	17	1	12	25	7
Montgomery	6	15	7	20	3	7	40	7
Florence*	35	4	15	6	--	21	16	3
Urban	9	21	8	15	6	11	29	4
Rural	8	14	6	14	5	20	28	8

"This case involves three men, each of whom has a record for car theft. While driving around one night, they decided to rob a liquor store. They had been drinking heavily and before they got to the store, the third man passed out drunk in the back seat. The first man entered the store with a gun a demanded money while the other two stayed in the car. When the salesman moved, the man panicked, shot him in the arm, and took $400. They were caught, so this is the second offense for each man. Where would you put the man who agreed to the robbery but then fell asleep in the back of the getaway car?"

[Choice of: Probation, Strict Probation, Strict Probation and Restitution, Strict Probation and Community Service, House Arrest, Boot Camp or Prison.]

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 25

SENTENCING: EMBEZZLEMENT (1ST OFFENSE)

Put offender in...	Reg. Prob-ation %	Strict Prob. %	Strict Prob.+ Restitu %	Strict Prob.+ ComServ %	House Arrst %	Boot Camp %	Prison %	Not sure %
Total	4	4	44	7	4	8	30	2
Male	3	3	42	6	5	8	34	1
Female	5	4	45	8	3	9	25	3
White	3	3	44	7	5	9	32	3
Black	9	7	46	9	3	7	20	1
18-30	5	3	45	11	9	10	20	1
31-45	1	4	56	7	2	5	28	1
46-60	7	2	35	4	2	9	40	3
61+	4	7	32	6	1	10	38	4
Some H.S./less	7	4	33	2	--	11	41	4
H.S. grad	4	5	40	9	3	9	31	2
Some college	3	3	55	9	8	6	19	1
College grad/more	2	2	50	10	8	8	24	1
Birmingham	4	3	43	9	2	14	29	1
Mobile	5	8	46	8	6	1	29	2
Huntsville	4	--	43	5	3	5	35	6
Montgomery	4	4	51	6	8	1	24	2
Florence*	6	--	24	6	3	20	41	--
Urban	4	5	45	7	8	8	30	1
Rural	6	--	39	10	6	9	28	7

"Lou, 26, connected his home computer to the main computer at the bank. By manipulating the bank's records, he stole a total of $250,000 over three years. Lou was finally caught and convicted of embezzlement. It was his first offense. Where would you put this offender?"

[Choice of: Probation, Strict Probation, Strict Probation and Restitution, Strict Probation and Community Service, House Arrest, Boot Camp or Prison.]

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 26

SENTENCING: ARMED ROBBERY BY A 15-YEAR-OLD (1ST OFFENSE)

Put offender in...	Reg. Prob-ation %	Strict Prob. %	Strict Prob.+ Restitu %	Strict Prob.+ ComServ %	House Arrst %	Boot Camp %	Prison# %	Not sure %
Total	5	6	11	9	2	35	33	1
Male	6	4	10	10	1	30	41	1
Female	4	8	12	8	3	40	26	2
White	3	5	10	11	3	38	32	1
Black	11	10	14	3	--	26	36	1
18-30	2	5	12	10	1	39	37	--
31-45	3	3	13	7	4	35	37	--
46-60	14	8	8	5	3	36	28	--
61+	4	12	10	14	2	29	26	4
Some H.S./less	10	9	7	8	--	27	39	3
H.S. grad	5	5	13	9	4	35	32	--
Some college	2	5	13	10	3	42	29	--
College grad/more	4	4	9	11	2	38	32	1
Birmingham	5	9	7	6	1	37	36	1
Mobile	8	5	19	11	1	29	32	--
Huntsville	--	3	9	10	5	36	31	6
Montgomery	1	5	7	18	3	34	33	--
Florence*	13	--	16	--	3	44	24	--
Urban	5	7	10	9	2	34	34	--
Rural	5	2	14	8	4	37	28	4

"Paul is a 15-year-old high school student. One night he pulled a knife on a woman in the street and demanded money. When she resisted, he slashed her arm. Paul was caught and convicted. This was his first offense. Where would you put this offender?"

[Choice of: Probation, Strict Probation, Strict Probation and Restitution, Strict Probation and Community Service, House Arrest, Boot Camp or Prison.]

#Prison for juvenile offenders.
*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 27

SENTENCING: STRICT PROBATION VIOLATION
(MISSED MEETING WITH PROBATION OFFICER)

Put offender in...	Reg. Prob-ation %	Strict Prob. %	Strict Prob.+ Restitu %	Strict Prob.+ ComServ %	House Arrst %	Boot Camp %	Prison %	Not sure %
Total	5	19	10	25	10	15	8	11
Male	4	19	5	24	10	16	10	11
Female	5	18	14	25	10	14	5	11
White	4	15	7	26	11	17	9	13
Black	6	28	16	21	4	13	3	10
18-30	6	22	8	24	10	18	6	12
31-45	--	18	15	32	8	11	6	12
46-60	8	22	9	24	11	10	8	8
61+	6	11	8	17	13	19	12	13
Some H.S./less	14	8	7	24	6	17	8	18
H.S. grad	2	21	11	19	12	15	11	10
Some college	1	23	10	30	10	13	6	8
College grad/more	--	25	10	31	13	12	3	7
Birmingham	5	18	13	24	10	15	6	10
Mobile	1	23	9	29	10	9	11	12
Huntsville	6	19	4	29	14	19	4	6
Montgomery	4	15	7	25	7	13	12	18
Florence*	15	14	11	4	4	33	7	13
Urban	4	17	8	28	10	16	7	12
Rural	6	24	15	14	10	12	9	11

"Hal, 24, was convicted for shoplifting a small amount of merchandise and sentenced to strict probation. He had previous committed two similar offenses. One day he overslept, missing a meeting with his probation officer and violating the terms of his strict probation. Where would you put this offender?"

[Choice of: Probation, Strict Probation, Strict Probation and Restitution, Strict Probation and Community Service, House Arrest, Boot Camp or Prison.]

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 28

SENTENCING: STRICT PROBATION VIOLATION (MANDATORY URINE TEST SHOWS ILLEGAL DRUG USE)

Put offender in...	Reg. Prob-ation %	Strict Prob. %	Strict Prob.+ Restitu %	Strict Prob.+ ComServ %	House Arrst %	Boot Camp %	Prison %	Not sure %
Total	--	3	5	13	12	36	29	5
Male	--	2	4	10	9	36	36	4
Female	1	3	5	16	14	35	22	6
White	--	1	1	13	14	39	30	4
Black	2	6	13	16	5	28	24	9
18-30	--	3	5	18	12	35	25	6
31-45	--	2	7	8	11	46	24	4
46-60	2	2	2	14	12	33	31	3
61+	--	2	3	11	12	25	39	8
Some H.S./less	2	--	5	17	12	24	36	7
H.S. grad	--	5	6	7	10	42	26	6
Some college	--	1	4	16	13	38	26	4
College grad/more	--	3	2	16	17	38	23	2
Birmingham	--	1	7	13	13	37	27	4
Mobile	--	4	5	16	10	36	29	5
Huntsville	--	5	--	19	9	37	20	11
Montgomery	--	3	2	7	10	32	41	7
Florence*	7	6	6	2	18	31	29	--
Urban	1	3	5	13	11	34	30	4
Rural	--	2	2	12	13	41	22	8

"Now imagine that instead of oversleeping, Hal took a mandatory urine test that showed he had used drugs, a different violation of his strict probation. Where would you put this offender?"

[Choice of: Probation, Strict Probation, Strict Probation and Restitution, Strict Probation and Community Service, House Arrest, Boot Camp or Prison.]

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 29

SENTENCING: STRICT PROBATION VIOLATION (CAUGHT SHOPLIFTING AGAIN)

Put offender in...	Reg. Prob-ation %	Strict Prob. %	Strict Prob.+ Restitu %	Strict Prob.+ ComServ %	House Arrst %	Boot Camp %	Prison %	Not sure %
Total	2	1	8	5	5	30	47	4
Male	1	1	7	3	5	25	58	2
Female	2	2	10	7	4	34	38	5
White	1	--	7	4	4	32	50	4
Black	4	4	12	8	7	27	36	3
18-30	3	1	8	6	9	29	45	2
31-45	--	2	6	6	5	34	47	3
46-60	3	2	8	5	1	36	40	5
61+	--	1	12	4	--	19	57	8
Some H.S.	6	--	5	3	2	24	51	10
H.S. grad	--	3	9	6	4	30	49	2
Some college	--	1	11	5	7	32	45	2
College grad/more	1	1	11	10	7	37	39	--
Birmingham	1	1	4	4	5	37	46	2
Mobile	--	1	12	8	7	22	49	5
Huntsville	--	2	17	9	2	28	38	6
Montgomery	4	1	6	6	1	27	54	3
Florence*	7	--	13	--	4	13	54	9
Urban	2	1	10	5	3	29	49	3
Rural	--	2	4	5	9	33	40	8

"Now imagine that instead of oversleeping or taking drugs, Hal was caught shoplifting again. Where would you put this offender?"

[Choice of: Probation, Strict Probation, Strict Probation and Restitution, Strict Probation and Community Service, House Arrest, Boot Camp or Prison.]

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 30

PERCEIVED RATE OF CRIME IN THE PAST YEAR

"In the past year, do you feel the crime rate in your area has:"	Increased %	Remained the same %	Decreased %	Not sure %
Total	83	7	3	8
Male	87	6	3	5
Female	79	7	3	10
White	84	7	3	7
Black	81	6	3	11
18-30	80	5	2	13
31-45	87	5	3	5
46-60	81	11	3	5
61+	84	8	3	5
Some H.S./less	79	6	5	10
H.S. grad	83	9	2	7
Some college	87	5	2	6
College grad/more	84	5	2	9
Birmingham	83	5	4	8
Mobile	84	5	3	8
Huntsville	73	14	4	8
Montgomery	86	5	--	9
Florence*	88	12	--	--
Urban	85	6	3	7
Rural	76	10	4	11

"These next questions are about prisons and crime in Alabama."

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 31

COMPARISON OF PERCEIVED RATES OF CRIME: ALABAMA vs. THE REST OF THE U.S.

"Do you think the crime rate in Alabama is higher or lower than the rest of the U.S.?"	Alabama lower %	Same as rest of U.S. %	Alabama higher %	Not sure %
Total	31	27	21	21
Male	32	30	20	18
Female	30	24	21	25
White	34	29	16	21
Black	25	20	32	23
18-30	31	23	29	17
31-45	33	29	19	20
46-60	26	39	20	14
61+	34	20	10	37
Some H.S./less	32	16	24	28
H.S. grad	26	36	19	19
Some college	36	23	21	20
College grad/more	35	38	14	13
Birmingham	25	28	23	24
Mobile	18	29	28	25
Huntsville	66	22	7	5
Montgomery	34	26	18	23
Florence*	48	21	6	25
Urban	29	27	22	22
Rural	39	27	14	21

"These next questions are about prisons and crime in Alabama."

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 32

REACTION TO THE IDEA OF A RESTITUTION CENTER

"Assuming the center were strictly run, does it sound like a good idea to you?"	Yes, good idea %	No, bad idea %	Not sure %
Total	76	13	12
Male	74	18	8
Female	77	7	15
White	74	12	13
Black	82	9	8
18-30	81	8	11
31-45	74	16	10
46-60	75	12	13
61+	71	16	14
Some H.S./less	72	14	14
H.S. grad	72	14	14
Some college	82	9	9
College grad/more	79	12	8
Birmingham	73	12	15
Mobile	78	10	12
Huntsville	72	20	8
Montgomery	75	15	10
Florence*	91	4	6
Urban	76	14	10
Rural	73	6	21

"A 'restitution center' is a house where about a dozen offenders live whole they pay back their victims for their crime. They might do community service, like cleaning parks, or paid work. None of these offenders committed a violent crime, but some of them may have been convicted of selling drugs."

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 33

REACTION TO THE IDEA OF A RESTITUTION CENTER IN RESPONDENTS' COMMUNITY
(NO VIOLENT-CRIME OFFENDERS)

"Assuming none of the offenders had committed a violent crime, would you be willing to have a restitution center located in your community?"	Yes %	No %	Not sure %
Total	51	26	22
Male	54	27	20
Female	49	26	25
White	51	25	24
Black	57	27	16
18-30	54	24	22
31-45	64	18	18
46-60	42	32	26
61+	39	36	25
Some H.S./less	55	23	23
H.S. grad	44	31	25
Some college	58	23	19
College grad/more	48	32	20
Birmingham	48	26	27
Mobile	55	30	15
Huntsville	59	28	13
Montgomery	51	27	23
Florence*	45	14	41
Urban	52	27	21
Rural	48	23	29

"A 'restitution center' is a house where about a dozen offenders live whole they pay back their victims for their crime. They might do community service, like cleaning parks, or paid work. None of these offenders committed a violent crime, but some of them may have been convicted of selling drugs."

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 34

REACTION TO THE IDEA OF A RESTITUTION CENTER IN RESPONDENTS' COMMUNITY (NO VIOLENT-CRIME OR DRUG-RELATED OFFENDERS)

"Assuming none of the offenders had committed a violent crime or a drug-related crime. Now would you be willing to have a restitution center located in your community?"	Yes %	No %	Not sure %
Total	63	19	19
Male	61	22	17
Female	64	16	21
White	60	20	20
Black	70	16	14
18-30	66	19	15
31-45	68	15	18
46-60	53	21	26
61+	58	22	20
Some H.S./less	63	13	25
H.S. grad	55	25	20
Some college	70	16	14
College grad/more	66	22	12
Birmingham	56	22	22
Mobile	64	19	17
Huntsville	65	20	16
Montgomery	68	14	18
Florence*	90	2	8
Urban	64	20	16
Rural	57	15	29

"A 'restitution center' is a house where about a dozen offenders live whole they pay back their victims for their crime. They might do community service, like cleaning parks, or paid work."

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 35

AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH STATEMENT: "SOME OF THE PEOPLE NOW SENT TO PRISON SHOULD REALLY BE PUT INTO ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS"

"Some of the people who are now sent to prison should really be put into alternative programs like Strict Probation, House Arrest or Boot Camp."	Agree %	Disagree %	Not sure %
Total	88	5	7
Male	87	8	6
Female	90	3	8
White	90	4	6
Black	83	9	8
18-30	89	7	5
31-45	92	3	5
46-60	87	7	5
61+	85	1	13
Some H.S./less	77	7	17
H.S. grad	93	4	3
Some college	92	4	4
College grad/more	97	2	1
Birmingham	88	5	7
Mobile	84	7	10
Huntsville	90	2	8
Montgomery	89	9	2
Florence*	100	--	--
Urban	89	6	6
Rural	88	3	9

"Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?"

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 36

AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH STATEMENT: "SOME OF THE PEOPLE NOW PUT ON PROBATION SHOULD REALLY BE SUPERVISED MORE CLOSELY THROUGH ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS"

"Some of the people who are currently put on probation should really be more closely supervised through programs like Strict Probation, House Arrest or Boot Camp."	Agree %	Disagree %	Not sure %
Total	91	3	6
Male	91	4	5
Female	91	2	7
White	95	1	4
Black	83	7	10
18-30	91	2	7
31-45	91	3	5
46-60	89	5	6
61+	93	1	6
Some H.S./less	81	3	16
H.S. grad	95	4	1
Some college	93	2	4
College grad/more	99	1	--
Birmingham	89	4	8
Mobile	91	2	7
Huntsville	91	3	7
Montgomery	96	4	--
Florence*	100	--	--
Urban	91	3	6
Rural	94	2	5

"Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?"

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 37

ARGUMENTS ABOUT ALTERNATIVES: "REALLY MORE EXPENSIVE BECAUSE OFFENDERS ARE FREE TO COMMIT ADDITIONAL CRIMES"

"Alternatives are really more expensive than prison because offenders are free to commit additional crimes against society."	Agree %	Disagree %	Not sure %
Total	30	47	23
Male	31	50	20
Female	30	45	25
White	29	48	24
Black	36	46	18
18-30	29	49	22
31-45	22	53	25
46-60	38	44	19
61+	37	38	25
Some H.S./less	36	31	33
H.S. grad	37	49	14
Some college	20	56	25
College grad/more	20	62	19
Birmingham	34	42	25
Mobile	33	50	17
Huntsville	18	61	22
Montgomery	24	52	24
Florence*	38	35	28
Urban	31	48	22
Rural	28	46	26

"Do you agree or disagree with these arguments about alternatives to prison?"

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 38

ARGUMENTS ABOUT ALTERNATIVES: "IMPROVES CHANCES OF OFFENDER BEING REHABILITATED"

"Alternatives improve the chance that an offender will be rehabilitated."	Agree %	Disagree %	Not sure %
Total	75	10	15
Male	79	10	11
Female	72	11	17
White	77	10	13
Black	70	11	19
18-30	78	12	10
31-45	81	10	9
46-60	74	8	19
61+	62	11	27
Some H.S./less	53	16	31
H.S. grad	80	9	11
Some college	84	9	7
College grad/more	86	6	8
Birmingham	72	9	19
Mobile	74	13	13
Huntsville	83	10	8
Montgomery	82	9	9
Florence*	67	15	18
Urban	75	11	14
Rural	75	9	16

"Do you agree or disagree with these arguments about alternatives to prison?"

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 39

ARGUMENTS ABOUT ALTERNATIVES: "ALTERNATIVES ARE NOT HARSH ENOUGH"

"Alternatives are not harsh enough, offenders should be punished to the full extent of the law."	Agree %	Disagree %	Not sure %
Total	22	58	21
Male	21	62	17
Female	22	54	24
White	21	58	21
Black	24	56	20
18-30	23	63	14
31-45	17	61	23
46-60	18	56	26
61+	29	48	23
Some H.S./less	29	38	33
H.S. grad	25	57	18
Some college	15	72	13
College grad/more	9	72	20
Birmingham	27	50	24
Mobile	20	63	17
Huntsville	14	69	17
Montgomery	15	64	21
Florence*	25	58	16
Urban	22	57	21
Rural	20	61	19

"Do you agree or disagree with these arguments about alternatives to prison?"

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 40

ARGUMENTS ABOUT ALTERNATIVES: "GIVES JUDGES THE FLEXIBILITY TO MAKE THE PUNISHMENT FIT THE CRIME"

"Alternatives give judges the flexibility to make the punishment fit the crime."	Agree %	Disagree %	Not sure %
Total	90	2	8
Male	93	1	6
Female	88	4	9
White	93	1	6
Black	82	7	11
18-30	89	4	8
31-45	91	1	8
46-60	86	4	10
61+	96	--	4
Some H.S./less	82	2	16
H.S. grad	92	4	4
Some college	93	1	5
College grad/more	93	3	4
Birmingham	87	3	9
Mobile	91	2	7
Huntsville	98	--	2
Montgomery	93	--	7
Florence*	85	6	9
Urban	90	3	8
Rural	93	--	7

"Do you agree or disagree with these arguments about alternatives to prison?"

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 41

ARGUMENTS ABOUT ALTERNATIVES: "OFFENDERS WHO COMMIT IDENTICAL CRIMES MIGHT RECEIVE DIFFERENT SENTENCES"

"Alternatives give a judge too much room for choice and so offenders who commit identical crimes might receive different sentences."	Agree %	Disagree %	Not sure %
Total	33	47	19
Male	37	50	13
Female	29	45	26
White	34	46	20
Black	34	48	18
18-30	26	57	16
31-45	29	51	20
46-60	39	39	22
61+	44	34	22
Some H.S./less	32	37	31
H.S. grad	37	47	16
Some college	32	55	14
College grad/more	29	51	19
Birmingham	33	47	20
Mobile	37	42	21
Huntsville	32	54	14
Montgomery	28	54	18
Florence*	34	43	23
Urban	35	48	18
Rural	28	45	27

"Do you agree or disagree with these arguments about alternatives to prison?"

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 42

AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH STATEMENT: "CASTRATING A RAPIST AMOUNTS TO CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT"

"Castrating a rapist amounts to cruel and unusual punishment."	Agree %	Disagree %	Not sure %
Total	51	35	14
Male	57	31	13
Female	46	39	14
White	49	37	14
Black	58	31	11
18-30	46	43	11
31-45	44	38	19
46-60	63	27	10
61+	59	26	15
Some H.S./less	46	29	25
H.S. grad	54	35	10
Some college	51	38	10
College grad/more	54	40	6
Birmingham	49	34	17
Mobile	45	42	14
Huntsville	53	42	4
Montgomery	66	20	14
Florence*	56	41	4
Urban	52	36	13
Rural	50	34	16

"As you may know, the Constitution prohibits cruel and unusual punishment but people sometimes disagree about what "cruel and unusual" punishment means. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements:"

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 43

AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH STATEMENT: "PUTTING SOMEONE IN AN OVERCROWDED PRISON AMOUNTS TO CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT"

"Putting someone in an overcrowded prison amounts to cruel and unusual punishment."	Agree %	Disagree %	Not sure %
Total	31	63	7
Male	28	67	5
Female	33	58	9
White	27	67	6
Black	40	51	10
18-30	27	66	8
31-45	27	68	4
46-60	32	61	8
61+	38	53	8
Some H.S./less	44	47	9
H.S. grad	26	69	5
Some college	26	68	7
College grad/more	26	67	8
Birmingham	27	67	6
Mobile	32	59	8
Huntsville	32	66	2
Montgomery	36	55	9
Florence*	33	55	12
Urban	30	64	7
Rural	34	58	8

"As you may know, the Constitution prohibits cruel and unusual punishment but people sometimes disagree about what "cruel and unusual" punishment means. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements:"

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 44

AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH STATEMENT: "TAKING AWAY SOMEONE'S DRIVER'S LICENSE AMOUNTS TO CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT"

"Taking away someone's driver's license amounts to cruel and unusual punishment."	Agree %	Disagree %	Not sure %
Total	11	80	9
Male	11	84	6
Female	11	77	12
White	9	84	7
Black	16	71	13
18-30	7	85	9
31-45	13	80	7
46-60	15	75	11
61+	11	80	10
Some H.S./less	17	58	25
H.S. grad	13	85	2
Some college	5	90	4
College grad/more	5	92	3
Birmingham	9	82	9
Mobile	11	79	9
Huntsville	14	76	10
Montgomery	13	86	1
Florence*	14	69	17
Urban	12	81	8
Rural	8	78	14

"As you may know, the Constitution prohibits cruel and unusual punishment but people sometimes disagree about what "cruel and unusual" punishment means. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements:"

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 45

HOW MUCH EMPHASIS "THE RIGHTS OF VICTIMS OF CRIME" SHOULD GET

"In Alabama, the rights of a victim of a crime [should get]..."	More emphasis %	Less emphasis %	Same %	Not sure %
Total	68	11	14	7
Male	70	11	14	6
Female	66	11	14	9
White	71	10	13	6
Black	60	14	16	11
18-30	67	13	14	6
31-45	76	11	6	7
46-60	66	9	18	7
61+	61	10	19	10
Some H.S./less	44	16	29	12
H.S. grad	71	10	11	8
Some college	79	10	7	4
College grad/more	89	4	6	1
Birmingham	71	13	11	6
Mobile	55	12	23	11
Huntsville	78	8	11	4
Montgomery	71	6	12	11
Florence*	69	9	15	7
Urban	67	12	14	7
Rural	71	7	13	10

"In Alabama, should the following get more emphasis, less emphasis, or about the same emphasis they get now?"

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 46

HOW MUCH EMPHASIS "THE RIGHTS OF A PERSON ACCUSED OF A CRIME" SHOULD GET IN ALABAMA

"In Alabama, 'the rights of a person accused of a crime' [should get]..."	More emphasis %	Less emphasis %	Same %	Not sure %
Total	17	39	35	9
Male	16	43	36	5
Female	19	35	34	12
White	14	41	37	8
Black	27	30	30	13
18-30	21	33	38	8
31-45	18	41	34	7
46-60	16	37	38	9
61+	13	46	30	11
Some H.S./less	18	35	40	8
H.S. grad	25	40	28	8
Some college	11	39	38	12
College grad/more	11	45	39	4
Birmingham	24	38	31	8
Mobile	14	31	41	13
Huntsville	9	40	45	5
Montgomery	15	43	32	9
Florence*	7	60	24	9
Urban	19	37	36	9
Rural	13	46	32	9

"In Alabama, should the following get more emphasis, less emphasis, or about the same emphasis they get now?"

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 47

HOW MUCH EMPHASIS "MAINTAINING BASIC LAW AND ORDER" SHOULD GET IN ALABAMA

"In Alabama, 'maintaining basic law and order' [should get]..."	More emphasis %	Less emphasis %	Same %	Not sure %
Total	68	3	22	8
Male	71	3	20	7
Female	64	3	24	10
White	69	2	22	8
Black	65	5	20	10
18-30	67	5	16	13
31-45	77	1	18	5
46-60	62	6	22	10
61+	63	--	34	3
Some H.S./less	50	4	31	15
H.S. grad	73	2	16	8
Some college	73	3	19	5
College grad/more	75	--	25	--
Birmingham	70	3	19	8
Mobile	65	3	18	15
Huntsville	60	2	36	2
Montgomery	68	--	25	7
Florence*	78	7	16	--
Urban	70	3	19	9
Rural	59	1	34	6

"In Alabama, should the following get more emphasis, less emphasis, or about the same emphasis they get now?"

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 48

HOW MUCH EMPHASIS "EQUAL TREATMENT UNDER THE LAW FOR EVERYONE" SHOULD GET IN ALABAMA

"In Alabama, equal treatment under the law for everyone, regardless of race, color or creed [should get]..."	More emphasis %	Less emphasis %	Same %	Not sure %
Total	64	2	31	4
Male	61	3	33	4
Female	66	1	30	3
White	63	2	34	2
Black	68	1	23	9
18-30	66	3	27	3
31-45	71	1	26	2
46-60	60	2	36	2
61+	54	--	40	6
Some H.S./less	47	2	44	7
H.S. grad	67	2	29	2
Some college	73	2	24	2
College grad/more	67	3	28	3
Birmingham	64	2	31	2
Mobile	61	3	26	10
Huntsville	64	--	35	1
Montgomery	64	2	33	1
Florence*	67	--	33	--
Urban	65	2	29	4
Rural	57	2	38	4

"In Alabama, should the following get more emphasis, less emphasis, or about the same emphasis they get now?"

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 49

HOW MUCH EMPHASIS "EFFORTS TO REHABILITATE CONVICTED OFFENDERS" SHOULD GET IN ALABAMA

"In Alabama, 'efforts to rehabilitate convicted offenders [should get]..."	More emphasis %	Less emphasis %	Same %	Not sure %
Total	77	4	10	9
Male	77	6	12	6
Female	77	3	9	11
White	78	4	9	9
Black	75	6	12	7
18-30	79	7	8	7
31-45	85	4	7	4
46-60	69	4	15	12
61+	72	--	15	13
Some H.S./less	59	8	14	19
H.S. grad	82	3	10	5
Some college	84	4	7	5
College grad/more	85	1	12	2
Birmingham	75	6	11	8
Mobile	76	4	9	11
Huntsville	79	2	13	6
Montgomery	79	2	10	9
Florence*	86	--	8	7
Urban	79	5	9	7
Rural	70	1	15	14

"In Alabama, should the following get more emphasis, less emphasis, or about the same emphasis they get now?"

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 50

REACTION TO STATEMENT: "MANDATORY SENTENCING LAWS HAVE DONE A LOT TO REDUCE CRIME"

"Mandatory sentencing laws have done a lot to reduce crime."	Agree %	Disagree %	Not sure %
Total	33	38	29
Male	36	39	25
Female	31	36	33
White	35	36	29
Black	28	43	29
18-30	31	40	29
31-45	22	50	29
46-60	44	28	28
61+	43	25	32
Some H.S./less	42	29	30
H.S. grad	36	39	25
Some college	26	42	33
College grad/more	25	42	33
Birmingham	31	38	31
Mobile	36	35	29
Huntsville	30	39	31
Montgomery	33	41	26
Florence*	49	33	18
Urban	32	39	30
Rural	41	34	26

"Recently, many states have passed mandatory sentencing laws which set a minimum prison term for certain offenders. Mark whether you agree or disagree with these statements about such laws."

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 51

REACTION TO STATEMENT: "MANDATORY SENTENCING LAWS ARE A MAJOR CAUSE OF PRISON OVERCROWDING"

"Mandatory sentencing laws are a major cause of prison overcrowding."	Agree %	Disagree %	Not sure %
Total	46	36	18
Male	44	41	15
Female	48	31	21
White	46	35	19
Black	48	38	14
18-30	45	35	20
31-45	45	34	21
46-60	43	42	15
61+	52	34	14
Some H.S./less	47	35	18
H.S. grad	45	41	14
Some college	46	33	21
College grad/more	45	30	25
Birmingham	44	37	19
Mobile	50	34	16
Huntsville	39	40	21
Montgomery	55	27	19
Florence*	42	49	9
Urban	49	33	18
Rural	36	48	16

"Recently, many states have passed mandatory sentencing laws which set a minimum prison term for certain offenders. Mark whether you agree or disagree with these statements about such laws."

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 52

REACTION TO STATEMENT: "I STRONGLY FAVOR THE USE OF MANDATORY SENTENCING LAWS"

"I strongly favor the use of mandatory sentencing laws."	Agree %	Disagree %	Not sure %
Total	52	23	26
Male	54	27	20
Female	50	19	31
White	54	22	24
Black	50	25	25
18-30	52	20	28
31-45	42	34	24
46-60	57	16	27
61+	62	16	23
Some H.S./less	54	14	33
H.S. grad	54	27	20
Some college	51	23	26
College grad/more	43	28	28
Birmingham	49	23	28
Mobile	40	28	33
Huntsville	69	18	13
Montgomery	51	23	25
Florence*	83	11	6
Urban	49	26	25
Rural	61	11	28

"Recently, many states have passed mandatory sentencing laws which set a minimum prison term for certain offenders. Mark whether you agree or disagree with these statements about such laws."

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 53

REACTION TO STATEMENT: "LAWS REQUIRING A MANDATORY SENTENCE SHOULD BE ADJUSTED TO GIVE JUDGES MORE FLEXIBILITY"

"Laws requiring a mandatory sentence should be adjusted to give judges more flexibility when sentencing convicted criminals."	Agree %	Disagree %	Not sure %
Total	61	22	17
Male	64	27	9
Female	58	18	24
White	63	22	15
Black	59	19	22
18-30	61	22	17
31-45	66	17	17
46-60	52	28	21
61+	62	23	15
Some H.S./less	50	26	24
H.S. grad	66	19	15
Some college	63	23	14
College grad/more	66	21	13
Birmingham	63	22	15
Mobile	64	16	19
Huntsville	53	33	14
Montgomery	57	21	23
Florence*	58	29	13
Urban	62	22	17
Rural	58	24	18

"Recently, many states have passed mandatory sentencing laws which set a minimum prison term for certain offenders. Mark whether you agree or disagree with these statements about such laws."

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 54

FAVOR OR OPPOSE: THE DEATH PENALTY

"Do you favor or oppose the death penalty for persons convicted of murder?"	Favor %	Oppose %	Not sure %
Total	75	14	11
Male	80	13	7
Female	71	14	15
White	81	11	8
Black	59	23	18
18-30	73	15	12
31-45	80	10	10
46-60	75	13	12
61+	76	15	9
Some H.S./less	77	16	7
H.S. grad	78	12	10
Some college	74	11	15
College grad/more	70	17	12
Birmingham	74	12	14
Mobile	74	20	6
Huntsville	82	7	11
Montgomery	71	16	13
Florence*	86	7	7
Urban	76	15	9
Rural	72	9	19

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 55

REACTION TO POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO ALABAMA PRISON OVERCROWDING: "BUILD MORE PRISONS BY RAISING TAXES"

"Build more prisons and pay for them by raising taxes."	Favor %	Oppose %	Not sure %
Total	25	61	14
Male	30	60	10
Female	21	61	18
White	25	63	12
Black	27	54	20
18-30	24	61	15
31-45	20	66	14
46-60	27	56	17
61+	33	58	9
Some H.S./less	27	57	16
H.S. grad	25	63	12
Some college	24	60	16
College grad/more	28	61	11
Birmingham	26	60	15
Mobile	36	50	13
Huntsville	13	79	8
Montgomery	23	68	10
Florence*	8	59	34
Urban	26	60	14
Rural	22	65	13

"As you may know, the courts have ruled that Alabama prisons are overcrowded. Here are some possible solutions. Mark how you feel about each one."

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 56

REACTION TO POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO ALABAMA PRISON OVERCROWDING: "BUILD MORE PRISONS BY CUTTING BACK IN OTHER AREAS"

"Build more prisons and pay for them by cutting back in other areas like education and health care."	Favor %	Oppose %	Not sure %
Total	4	92	4
Male	5	94	1
Female	3	91	7
White	5	93	3
Black	2	90	8
18-30	4	91	5
31-45	2	96	2
46-60	2	93	6
61+	8	88	4
Some H.S./less	8	79	13
H.S. grad	4	94	3
Some college	2	98	--
College grad/more	1	99	--
Birmingham	3	95	3
Mobile	3	96	1
Huntsville	8	86	6
Montgomery	6	94	--
Florence*	--	67	33
Urban	3	93	3
Rural	6	88	6

"As you may know, the courts have ruled that Alabama prisons are overcrowded. Here are some possible solutions. Mark how you feel about each one."

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 57

REACTION TO POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO ALABAMA PRISON OVERCROWDING:
"RELEASE SOME NONVIOLENT OFFENDERS A FEW MONTHS EARLY"

"Release some nonviolent offenders from prison a few months early."	Favor %	Oppose %	Not sure %
Total	61	27	12
Male	61	30	9
Female	60	25	15
White	62	28	11
Black	62	22	16
18-30	57	27	16
31-45	64	25	11
46-60	58	34	9
61+	66	25	9
Some H.S./less	55	36	9
H.S. grad	62	23	15
Some college	61	27	12
College grad/more	70	20	9
Birmingham	50	37	14
Mobile	75	15	10
Huntsville	65	28	7
Montgomery	65	19	16
Florence*	70	17	13
Urban	62	26	12
Rural	54	31	15

"As you may know, the courts have ruled that Alabama prisons are overcrowded. Here are some possible solutions. Mark how you feel about each one."

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 58

REACTION TO POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO ALABAMA PRISON OVERCROWDING:
"USE CAPITAL PUNISHMENT MORE OFTEN FOR THE MOST SERIOUS CRIMES"

"Use capital punishment more often for the most serious crimes, such as murder."	Favor %	Oppose %	Not sure %
Total	74	17	8
Male	78	18	5
Female	72	17	12
White	80	15	5
Black	63	21	15
18-30	72	20	9
31-45	78	14	8
46-60	75	17	9
61+	74	18	8
Some H.S./less	72	18	10
H.S. grad	76	17	7
Some college	76	16	9
College grad/more	70	23	7
Birmingham	73	19	9
Mobile	73	21	5
Huntsville	71	16	13
Montgomery	81	16	3
Florence*	81	--	19
Urban	74	17	8
Rural	74	18	9

"As you may know, the courts have ruled that Alabama prisons are overcrowded. Here are some possible solutions. Mark how you feel about each one."

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 59

REACTION TO POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO ALABAMA PRISON OVERCROWDING: "PLACE MANY PEOPLE WHO WOULD NORMALLY GO TO PRISON IN LESS EXPENSIVE PROGRAMS"

"Place many people who would normally go to prison in less expensive programs such as Strict Probation, House Arrest, etc."	Favor %	Oppose %	Not sure %
Total	85	6	10
Male	86	6	8
Female	84	5	12
White	87	5	8
Black	80	5	15
18-30	84	6	10
31-45	85	5	10
46-60	87	5	7
61+	83	4	12
Some H.S./less	72	8	21
H.S. grad	87	5	8
Some college	90	4	6
College grad/more	97	2	1
Birmingham	84	6	10
Mobile	86	4	10
Huntsville	85	9	6
Montgomery	81	8	11
Florence*	88	--	12
Urban	85	5	10
Rural	82	8	10

"As you may know, the courts have ruled that Alabama prisons are overcrowded. Here are some possible solutions. Mark how you feel about each one."

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 60

THE AGE AN OFFENDER SHOULD BE TREATED AS AN ADULT FOR SERIOUS CRIMES, SUCH AS MURDER

Treat as adult at age:	18yrs/ older %	17yrs %	16yrs %	15yrs %	14yrs %	13yrs %	12yrs/ younger %	Not sure %
Total	35	10	24	9	4	3	3	11
Male	29	6	28	13	7	4	2	12
Female	41	14	21	6	1	2	4	11
White	35	9	23	9	5	4	3	12
Black	36	14	26	7	1	2	3	11
18-30	34	9	25	8	5	5	3	11
31-45	40	8	20	6	8	4	3	12
46-60	30	19	27	12	3	--	3	7
61+	34	8	25	13	--	2	2	16
Some H.S./less	38	13	18	11	6	--	2	13
H.S. grad	40	8	26	9	3	3	1	10
Some college	31	11	28	7	3	3	3	12
College grad/more	23	9	23	10	5	11	10	9
Birmingham	28	12	24	11	6	2	4	13
Mobile	50	9	22	7	2	2	--	7
Huntsville	25	7	24	11	5	9	3	17
Montgomery	43	3	25	6	3	4	1	15
Florence*	36	22	33	6	--	--	2	--
Urban	37	9	25	8	4	3	3	11
Rural	29	15	20	14	3	4	2	14

"At what age do you think children who commit the most serious crimes such as murder should be treated and punished as adults?"

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 61

THE AGE AN OFFENDER SHOULD BE TREATED AS AN ADULT FOR CRIMES SUCH AS BURGLARY, ROBBERY AND SELLING DRUGS

Treat as adult at age:	18yrs/ older %	17yrs %	16yrs %	15yrs %	14yrs %	13yrs %	12yrs/ younger %	Not sure %
Total	34	10	26	9	6	4	5	8
Male	30	7	30	9	8	4	3	9
Female	38	12	22	9	4	3	6	7
White	35	8	27	9	6	4	3	7
Black	34	10	24	6	5	2	9	11
18-30	34	11	21	8	6	6	5	9
31-45	40	7	27	6	6	4	3	6
46-60	30	16	28	9	9	--	7	2
61+	29	8	30	14	2	2	3	14
Some H.S./less	35	13	19	8	5	--	7	13
H.S. grad	40	11	27	8	5	3	1	4
Some college	30	8	30	10	6	6	5	7
College grad/more	20	4	32	11	7	6	9	10
Birmingham	24	11	31	7	8	3	8	9
Mobile	46	9	17	15	2	2	--	8
Huntsville	20	12	30	9	6	9	6	10
Montgomery	51	7	22	6	3	4	2	6
Florence*	52	7	29	5	4	--	4	--
Urban	35	9	26	7	6	4	4	8
Rural	29	14	25	15	4	1	7	6

"At what age do you think children who commit crimes such as robbery, burglary and selling drugs should be treated and punished as adults?"

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

II. COMPARISON OF PRE- AND POSTTEST RESULTS

PRE- AND POSTTEST COMPARISON TABLE 1

REACTION TO STATEMENT: "THE VAST MAJORITY OF CRIMINAL OFFENDERS SHOULD SERVE AT LEAST SOME TIME IN PRISON"

"The vast majority of convicted criminal offenders should serve at least some time in prison -- do you:"	Pretest %	Posttest %
Agree	77	60
Disagree	10	26
Not sure	12	14

TABLE 2

THE LENGTH OF ALABAMA PRISON SENTENCES

"In general, do you think prison sentences in Alabama should be: "	Pretest %	Posttest %
Longer	41	41
Shorter	4	7
About the same	28	28
Not sure	27	25

TABLE 3

ALABAMA'S NEED FOR PRISONS

"In your opinion, does the state of Alabama need more prisons, or not?"	Pretest %	Posttest %
Yes	69	67
No	18	23
Not sure	13	11

TABLE 4

SENTENCING: ARMED ROBBERY (3RD OFFENSE)

Put offender in	Total Pretest %	Total Posttest %	Total Posttest Alternative %
Regular Probation	4	2	
Strict Probation	--	5	
Strict Probation with Restitution	--	12	
Strict Probation with Community Service	--	4	38
House Arrest	--	2	
Boot Camp	--	14	
Prison	93	60	
Not sure	2	1	

"One night Tom, 25, cornered a woman in an alley. He pointed a loaded gun at her and took her purse. Tom was caught and convicted of armed robbery. Prior to this crime, he was convicted of burglary and selling drugs. The armed robbery was his third offense. Where would you put this offender?"

TABLE 5

SENTENCING: JOYRIDING (1ST OFFENSE)

Put offender in	Total Pretest %	Total Posttest %	Total Posttest Alternative %
Regular Probation	89	45	
Strict Probation	--	24	
Strict Probation with Restitution	--	9	
Strict Probation with Community Service	--	8	53
House Arrest	--	2	
Boot Camp	--	10	
Prison	9	2	
Not sure	3	1	

"Bill, 23, took a joyride in a new sports car. He hot-wired the car and drove around for a couple of hours, then returned it undamaged. Later he was caught. This was his first offense."

TABLE 6

SENTENCING: PETTY THEFT (1ST OFFENSE)

Put offender in	Total Pretest %	Total Posttest %	Total Posttest Alternative %
Regular Probation	80	51	
Strict Probation	--	15	
Strict Probation with Restitution	--	16	
Strict Probation with Community Service	--	6	47
House Arrest	--	1	
Boot Camp	--	8	
Prison	13	2	
Not sure	7	2	

"Bob, 24, was caught trying to steal a $150 radio from an audio store. It was his first offense."

TABLE 7

SENTENCING: PETTY THEFT (3RD OFFENSE)

Put offender in	Total Pretest %	Total Posttest %	Total Posttest Alternative %
Regular Probation	15	2	
Strict Probation	--	16	
Strict Probation with Restitution	--	27	
Strict Probation with Community Service	--	12	76
House Arrest	--	5	
Boot Camp	--	17	
Prison	74	22	
Not sure	10	3	

"Now suppose that when Bob was arrested, he had two previous convictions for shoplifting. If we add it up, stealing the radio is his third offense."

TABLE 8

SENTENCING: PETTY THEFT (5TH OFFENSE)

Put offender in	Total Pretest %	Total Posttest %	Total Posttest Alternative %
Regular Probation	5	2	
Strict Probation	--	4	
Strict Probation with Restitution	--	14	
Strict Probation with Community Service	--	8	51
House Arrest	--	8	
Boot Camp	--	17	
Prison	90	46	
Not sure	5	2	

"Now imagine that Bob has been convicted for shoplifting four times before he stole the radio. That makes this his fifth offense."

TABLE 9

SENTENCING: PETTY THEFT (5TH OFFENSE, BUT WITH MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES)

Put offender in	Total Pretest %	Total Posttest %	Total Posttest Alternative %
Regular Probation	22	5	
Strict Probation	--	10	
Strict Probation with Restitution	--	15	
Strict Probation with Community Service	--	10	66
House Arrest	--	26	
Boot Camp	--	5	
Prison	59	27	
Not sure	19	3	

"Finally, imagine that Bob has been convicted for shoplifting five times, but that he also works two jobs, and supports a wife and four young children."

TABLE 10

SENTENCING: MUGGING AND RAPE (1ST OFFENSE)

Put offender in	Total Pretest %	Total Posttest %	Total Posttest Alternative %
Regular Probation	3	2	
Strict Probation	--	6	
Strict Probation with Restitution	--	3	
Strict Probation with Community Service	--	2	21
House Arrest	--	2	
Boot Camp	--	8	
Prison	94	76	
Not sure	3	1	

"Gene, 25, mugged a young woman, dragged her into the park, and raped her. He was caught and convicted. This was his first offense."

TABLE 11

SENTENCING: DRUNK DRIVING (1ST OFFENSE)

Put offender in	Total Pretest %	Total Posttest %	Total Posttest Alternative %
Regular Probation	80	43	
Strict Probation	--	26	
Strict Probation with Restitution	--	4	
Strict Probation with Community Service	--	13	54
House Arrest	--	5	
Boot Camp	--	6	
Prison	13	2	
Not sure	6	1	

"One evening Joe, 23, was caught driving while drunk on the state highway. This was his first offense."

TABLE 12

SENTENCING: DRUNK DRIVING (2ND OFFENSE)

Put offender in	Total Pretest %	Total Posttest %	Total Posttest Alternative %
Regular Probation	30	4	
Strict Probation	--	17	
Strict Probation with Restitution	--	33	
Strict Probation with Community Service	--	19	89
House Arrest	--	9	
Boot Camp	--	11	
Prison	51	9	
Not sure	19	1	

"Now imagine that Joe was caught a second time, and that this time he smashed into a fire hydrant. This is his second drunk driving offense."

TABLE 13

SENTENCING: BURGLARY BY 15-YEAR-OLD (1ST OFFENSE)

Put offender in	Total Pretest %	Total Posttest %	Total Posttest Alternative %
Regular Probation	74	38	
Strict Probation	--	11	
Strict Probation with Restitution	--	22	
Strict Probation with Community Service	--	7	58
House Arrest	--	1	
Boot Camp	--	17	
Prison	20	4	
Not sure	6	2	

"Frank is a 15-year-old high school student. He broke into an empty gas station, stole some tools, and broke into a cigarette machine. He was caught and convicted. This was his first offense."

TABLE 14

SENTENCING: PETTY THEFT BY WOMAN (5TH OFFENSE)

Put offender in	Total Pretest %	Total Posttest %	Total Posttest Alternative %
Regular Probation	18	3	
Strict Probation	--	10	
Strict Probation with Restitution	--	37	
Strict Probation with Community Service	--	10	74
House Arrest	--	8	
Boot Camp	--	9	
Prison	71	23	
Not sure	11	2	

"Alice, 24, stole a dress worth about $150. When caught and convicted, it was learned that Alice had stolen things worth about $150 four other times over the past few years. That makes stealing the dress her fifth offense."

TABLE 15

SENTENCING: PETTY THEFT BY WOMAN (5TH OFFENSE BUT WITH MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES)

Put offender in	Total Pretest %	Total Posttest %	Total Posttest Alternative %
Regular Probation	32	4	
Strict Probation	--	12	
Strict Probation with Restitution	--	27	
Strict Probation with Community Service	--	10	78
House Arrest	--	24	
Boot Camp	--	4	
Prison	48	18	
Not sure	20	3	

"Now imagine that Alice has been convicted a total of five times, but that she also works two jobs, and supports four young children."

TABLE 16

SENTENCING: DRUG SELLING (1ST OFFENSE)

Put offender in	Total Pretest %	Total Posttest %	Total Posttest Alternative %
Regular Probation	42	16	
Strict Probation	--	27	
Strict Probation with Restitution	--	3	
Strict Probation with Community Service	--	14	62
House Arrest	--	3	
Boot Camp	--	15	
Prison	54	21	
Not sure	4	1	

"Al, 22, was selling drugs in front of his home when he sold a small amount of cocaine to and undercover police officer. This was Al's first conviction."

TABLE 17

SENTENCING: DRUG SELLING (3RD OFFENSE)

Put offender in	Total Pretest %	Total Posttest %	Total Posttest Alternative %
Regular Probation	19	1	
Strict Probation	--	13	
Strict Probation with Restitution	--	5	
Strict Probation with Community Service	--	13	67
House Arrest	--	10	
Boot Camp	--	27	
Prison	62	30	
Not sure	19	4	

"Now imagine that Al is a drug addict who wants help. He has tried to get into a drug treatment clinic, but there is a six month wait. Also, Al has been convicted of selling drugs twice before. Selling cocaine to the police officer is his third offense."

TABLE 18

SENTENCING: DRUG SELLING (5TH OFFENSE)

Put offender in	Total Pretest %	Total Posttest %	Total Posttest Alternative %
Regular Probation	10	--	
Strict Probation	--	5	
Strict Probation with Restitution	--	2	
Strict Probation with Community Service	--	7	41
House Arrest	--	7	
Boot Camp	--	21	
Prison	74	55	
Not sure	16	5	

"Now imagine that Al has been convicted of selling cocaine a total of four times in the past. He is still an addict, and looking for help. Now, selling the cocaine to the police officer is his fifth offense."

TABLE 19

SENTENCING: BURGLARY (1ST OFFENSE)

Put offender in	Total Pretest %	Total Posttest %	Total Posttest Alternative %
Regular Probation	64	22	
Strict Probation	--	12	
Strict Probation with Restitution	--	38	
Strict Probation with Community Service	--	9	72
House Arrest	--	2	
Boot Camp	--	11	
Prison	31	7	
Not sure	6	1	

"Late one night, Phil, 22, picked the lock at an electronics shop and stole a $5,000 stereo. There was no one in the store, and Phil was not armed. This was his first offense."

TABLE 20

SENTENCING: BURGLARY (2ND OFFENSE)

Put offender in	Total Pretest %	Total Posttest %	Total Posttest Alternative %
Regular Probation	21	4	
Strict Probation	--	17	
Strict Probation with Restitution	--	26	
Strict Probation with Community Service	--	8	78
House Arrest	--	8	
Boot Camp	--	19	
Prison	68	19	
Not sure	12	2	

"Now imagine that Phil had committed a similar burglary three years ago. That means that stealing the stereo was his second offense."

TABLE 21

SENTENCING: BURGLARY (2ND OFFENSE, BUT ARMED)

Put offender in	Total Pretest %	Total Posttest %	Total Posttest Alternative %
Regular Probation	9	1	
Strict Probation	--	8	
Strict Probation with Restitution	--	9	
Strict Probation with Community Service	--	5	51
House Arrest	--	6	
Boot Camp	--	22	
Prison	83	46	
Not sure	8	3	

"Finally, imagine that when Phil committed these burglaries, he was armed with a loaded pistol, but never used it. It's still his second offense."

TABLE 22

SENTENCING: ROBBERY INVOLVING THREE MEN (MAN WHO SHOT THE SALESMAN IN THE ARM)

Put offender in	Total Pretest %	Total Posttest %	Total Posttest Alternative %
Regular Probation	1	1	
Strict Probation	--	2	
Strict Probation with Restitution	--	8	
Strict Probation with Community Service	--	2	21
House Arrest	--	2	
Boot Camp	--	6	
Prison	97	79	
Not sure	2	2	

"This case involves three men, each of whom has a record for car theft. While driving around one night, they decided to rob a liquor store. They had been drinking heavily and before they got to the store, the third man had passed out drunk in the back seat. The first man entered the store with a gun and demanded money while the other two stayed in the car. When the salesman moved, the man panicked, shot him in the arm, and took $400. The were caught, so this is the second offense for each. Where would you put the man who shot the salesman?"

TABLE 23

SENTENCING: ROBBERY INVOLVING THREE MEN (MAN WHO DROVE GETAWAY CAR)

Put offender in	Total Pretest %	Total Posttest %	Total Posttest Alternative %
Regular Probation	15	4	
Strict Probation	--	11	
Strict Probation with Restitution	--	10	
Strict Probation with Community Service	--	11	49
House Arrest	--	5	
Boot Camp	--	12	
Prison	78	46	
Not sure	7	3	

"This case involves three men, each of whom has a record for car theft. While driving around one night, they decided to rob a liquor store. They had been drinking heavily and before they got to the store, the third man had passed out drunk in the back seat. The first man entered the store with a gun and demanded money while the other two stayed in the car. When the salesman moved, the man panicked, shot him in the arm, and took $400. The were caught, so this is the second offense for each. Where would you put the man who drove the getaway car?"

TABLE 24

SENTENCING: ROBBERY INVOLVING THREE MEN
(MAN WHO AGREED TO ROBBERY BUT FELL ASLEEP IN CAR)

Put offender in	Total Pretest %	Total Posttest %	Total Posttest Alternative %
Regular Probation	37	9	
Strict Probation	--	19	
Strict Probation with Restitution	--	7	
Strict Probation with Community Service	--	15	60
House Arrest	--	5	
Boot Camp	--	13	
Prison	50	29	
Not sure	13	4	

"This case involves three men, each of whom has a record for car theft. While driving around one night, they decided to rob a liquor store. They had been drinking heavily and before they got to the store, the third man had passed out drunk in the back seat. The first man entered the store with a gun and demanded money while the other two stayed in the car. When the salesman moved, the man panicked, shot him in the arm, and took $400. The were caught, so this is the second offense for each. Where would you put the man who agreed to the robbery but fell asleep in the back of the car?"

TABLE 25

SENTENCING: EMBEZZLING $250,000 (1ST OFFENSE)

Put offender in	Total Pretest %	Total Posttest %	Total Posttest Alternative %
Regular Probation	22	4	
Strict Probation	--	4	
Strict Probation with Restitution	--	44	
Strict Probation with Community Service	--	7	67
House Arrest	--	4	
Boot Camp	--	8	
Prison	71	30	
Not sure	7	2	

"Lou, 26, connected his home computer to the main computer at a bank. By manipulating the bank's records, he stole a total of $250,000 over three years. Lou was finally caught and convicted of embezzlement. It was his first offense."

TABLE 26

SENTENCING: ARMED ROBBERY BY 15-YEAR-OLD (1ST OFFENSE)

Put offender in	Total Pretest %	Total Posttest %	Total Posttest Alternative %
Regular Probation	18	5	
Strict Probation	--	6	
Strict Probation with Restitution	--	11	
Strict Probation with Community Service	--	9	63
House Arrest	--	2	
Boot Camp	--	35	
Prison	78	33	
Not sure	4	1	

"Paul is a 15-year-old high school student. One night he pulled a knife on a woman in the street and demanded money. When she resisted, he slashed her arm. Paul was caught and convicted. This was his first offense."

TABLE 27

AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH STATEMENT: "CASTRATING A RAPIST AMOUNTS TO CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT"

"Castrating a rapist amounts to cruel and unusual punishment."	Pretest %	Posttest %
Agree	46	51
Disagree	38	35
Not sure	16	14

"As you may know, the Constitution prohibits cruel and unusual punishment but people sometimes disagree about what 'cruel and unusual' punishment means. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements:"

TABLE 28

AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH STATEMENT: "PUTTING SOMEONE IN AN OVERCROWDED PRISON AMOUNTS TO CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT"

"Putting someone in an overcrowded prison amounts to cruel and unusual punishment."	Pretest %	Posttest %
Agree	27	31
Disagree	61	63
Not sure	12	7

"As you may know, the Constitution prohibits cruel and unusual punishment but people sometimes disagree about what 'cruel and unusual' punishment means. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements:"

TABLE 29

AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH STATEMENT: "TAKING AWAY SOMEONE'S DRIVERS LICENSE AMOUNTS TO CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT"

"Taking away someone's driver's license amounts to cruel and unusual punishment."	Pretest %	Posttest %
Agree	9	11
Disagree	85	80
Not sure	7	9

"As you may know, the Constitution prohibits cruel and unusual punishment but people sometimes disagree about what 'cruel and unusual' punishment means. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements:"

TABLE 30

REACTION TO POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO ALABAMA PRISON OVERCROWDING:
"BUILD MORE PRISONS BY RAISING TAXES"

"Build more prisons and pay for them by raising taxes."	Pretest %	Posttest %
Favor	19	25
Oppose	60	61
Not sure	21	14

"As you may know, the courts have decided that prisons in Alabama are overcrowded. Here are some possible solutions. Mark how you feel about each."

TABLE 31

REACTION TO POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO ALABAMA PRISON OVERCROWDING:
"BUILD MORE PRISONS BY CUTTING SPENDING IN OTHER AREAS"

"Build more prisons and pay for them by cutting spending in other areas like education and health care."	Pretest %	Posttest %
Favor	3	4
Oppose	91	92
Not sure	7	4

"As you may know, the courts have decided that prisons in Alabama are overcrowded. Here are some possible solutions. Mark how you feel about each."

TABLE 32

REACTION TO POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO ALABAMA PRISON OVERCROWDING: "RELEASE SOME 'NONVIOLENT' OFFENDERS FROM PRISON A FEW MONTHS EARLY"

"Release some 'nonviolent' offenders from prison a few months early."	Pretest %	Posttest %
Favor	57	61
Oppose	27	27
Not sure	16	12

"As you may know, the courts have decided that prisons in Alabama are overcrowded. Here are some possible solutions. Mark how you feel about each."

TABLE 33

REACTION TO POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO ALABAMA PRISON OVERCROWDING:
"USE CAPITAL PUNISHMENT MORE OFTEN FOR THE MOST SERIOUS CRIMES"

"Use capital punishment more often for the most serious crimes, such as murder."	Pretest %	Posttest %
Favor	72	74
Oppose	18	17
Not sure	10	8

"As you may know, the courts have decided that prisons in Alabama are overcrowded. Here are some possible solutions. Mark how you feel about each."

TABLE 33

REACTION TO POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO ALABAMA PRISON OVERCROWDING: "FIND NEW WAY TO PUNISH OFFENDERS THAT ARE LESS EXPENSIVE THAN PRISON"

"Find new ways to punish offenders that are less expensive than prison, but harsher than probation."	Pretest %	Posttest* %
Favor	84	85
Oppose	6	6
Not sure	10	10

"As you may know, the courts have decided that prisons in Alabama are overcrowded. Here are some possible solutions. Mark how you feel about each."

*Posttest wording: "Place many people who would normally go to prison in less expensive programs such as Strict Probation, House Arrest, Boot Camp, etc."

III. PRETEST SUMMARY TABLES

PRETEST TABLE 1

RATING BRANCHES OF STATE GOVERNMENT: SUMMARY

"How good a job do you thing the following branches of government are doing..."	Excellent %	Good %	Fair %	Poor %	Not sure %
Alabama state government	1	29	51	15	5
State police	10	45	33	8	5
State prisons	--	14	39	30	18
State courts	2	18	45	22	13
Juvenile justice system including reform schools and rehabilitation programs for young offenders	3	19	32	23	24

"People sometimes have different opinions about their state government. How good a job do you think the following branches of government are doing?"

PRETEST TABLE 1-A

RATING HOW GOOD A JOB THE STATE GOVERNMENT IS DOING

"In an overall sense, is the Alabama state government doing an excellent, good, fair, or poor job?"	Excellent %	Good %	Fair %	Poor %	Not sure %
Total	1	29	51	15	5
Male	--	27	51	19	3
Female	1	30	51	12	7
White	1	26	54	16	4
Black	--	35	45	12	7
18-30	1	23	55	12	9
31-45	--	32	47	14	7
46-60	2	40	35	22	2
61+	--	25	61	14	--
Some H.S./less	3	24	52	14	7
H.S. grad	--	32	51	14	3
Some college	--	32	47	15	6
College grad/more	--	23	53	22	3
Birmingham	1	33	45	17	5
Mobile	--	27	48	21	4
Huntsville	--	28	66	1	6
Montgomery	3	25	51	15	7
Florence*	--	21	69	9	--

"People sometimes have different opinions about their state government. How good a job do you think the following branches of government are doing?"

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

PRETEST TABLE 1-B

RATING HOW GOOD A JOB THE STATE POLICE ARE DOING

"How about the job done by the state police?"	Excellent %	Good %	Fair %	Poor %	Not sure %
Total	10	45	33	8	5
Male	14	48	29	7	3
Female	7	42	37	9	6
White	9	47	30	10	5
Black	11	37	43	5	4
18-30	6	43	42	7	3
31-45	10	42	29	12	7
46-60	11	54	31	2	2
61+	16	43	25	9	7
Some H.S./less	7	41	30	14	8
H.S. grad	14	47	35	4	1
Some college	11	45	32	7	5
College grad/more	6	48	35	3	8
Birmingham	11	49	30	8	3
Mobile	6	32	45	8	8
Huntsville	8	52	28	11	2
Montgomery	18	49	23	9	--
Florence*	--	46	35	--	19

"People sometimes have different opinions about their state government. How good a job do you think the following branches of government are doing?"

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

PRETEST TABLE 1-C

RATING HOW GOOD A JOB THE STATE PRISONS ARE DOING

"How good a job do you think the Alabama state prisons are doing?"	Excellent %	Good %	Fair %	Poor %	Not sure %
Total	--	14	39	30	18
Male	--	19	38	31	11
Female	--	10	41	27	22
White	1	13	40	31	16
Black	--	18	39	23	20
18-30	--	13	41	30	16
31-45	1	17	32	30	20
46-60	--	18	35	34	14
61+	--	9	49	26	17
Some H.S./less	--	6	36	32	26
H.S. grad	--	22	35	29	15
Some college	1	11	43	30	15
College grad/more	1	17	49	23	9
Birmingham	--	19	42	22	18
Mobile	--	5	34	38	23
Huntsville	2	14	48	23	13
Montgomery	--	18	24	44	13
Florence*	--	2	44	44	11

"People sometimes have different opinions about their state government. How good a job do you think the following branches of government are doing?"

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

PRETEST TABLE 1-D

RATING HOW GOOD A JOB THE STATE COURTS ARE DOING

"What about the state courts?"	Excellent %	Good %	Fair %	Poor %	Not sure %
Total	2	18	45	22	13
Male	3	19	44	24	10
Female	1	16	48	20	15
White	1	19	48	23	11
Black	4	15	46	19	16
18-30	2	21	45	18	14
31-45	3	14	43	24	15
46-60	2	18	45	25	10
61+	--	16	51	23	10
Some H.S./less	2	8	44	22	24
H.S. grad	2	24	47	18	9
Some college	1	19	46	24	10
College grad/more	4	19	44	26	7
Birmingham	3	16	44	20	17
Mobile	1	16	50	26	8
Huntsville	2	25	42	22	11
Montgomery	--	17	49	24	9
Florence*	2	17	41	23	17

"People sometimes have different opinions about their state government. How good a job do you think the following branches of government are doing?"

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

PRETEST TABLE 1-E

RATING HOW GOOD A JOB THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM IS DOING

"How about the Alabama juvenile justice system including reform schools and rehabilitation programs for young offenders?"	Excellent %	Good %	Fair %	Poor %	Not sure %
Total	3	19	32	23	24
Male	3	20	35	21	21
Female	2	18	30	24	25
White	1	17	33	24	25
Black	7	29	31	15	19
18-30	5	23	34	15	23
31-45	2	16	21	34	28
46-60	1	19	40	24	16
61+	1	17	40	16	26
Some H.S./less	--	11	31	27	31
H.S. grad	3	20	34	17	26
Some college	3	27	34	21	15
College grad/more	7	11	29	32	21
Birmingham	4	17	30	25	25
Mobile	3	13	34	20	29
Huntsville	--	36	31	21	12
Montgomery	--	21	34	23	22
Florence*	2	17	37	18	25

"People sometimes have different opinions about their state government. How good a job do you think the following branches of government are doing?"

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 2

AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH STATEMENT: "MOST PEOPLE ON PROBATION REALLY BELONG IN PRISON"

"Many people now on probation in Alabama really belong in prison."	Agree %	Disagree %	Not sure %
Total	50	18	32
Male	51	18	32
Female	52	16	33
White	57	13	30
Black	30	30	40
18-30	41	22	37
31-45	41	20	39
46-60	60	19	22
61+	70	4	26
Some H.S./less	56	16	29
H.S. grad	48	19	34
Some college	48	17	34
College grad/more	57	14	29
Birmingham	51	15	34
Mobile	50	17	33
Huntsville	57	18	25
Montgomery	42	22	36
Florence*	48	26	26

"These next statements are about the Alabama state prison system. For each one, mark whether you agree with it or not."

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 3

AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH STATEMENT: "ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, ALABAMA PRISONS DO A PRETTY GOOD JOB OF REHABILITATING PRISONERS"

"All things considered, Alabama prisons do a pretty good job of rehabilitating prisoners."	Agree %	Disagree %	Not sure %
Total	19	49	32
Male	18	48	35
Female	20	50	30
White	18	53	30
Black	24	37	39
18-30	19	55	26
31-45	18	48	34
46-60	15	50	35
61+	24	40	36
Some H.S./less	20	55	25
H.S. grad	21	39	40
Some college	19	51	31
College grad/more	11	57	32
Birmingham	18	45	37
Mobile	13	51	36
Huntsville	33	54	14
Montgomery	20	49	32
Florence*	21	59	20

"These next statements are about the Alabama state prison system. For each one, mark whether you agree with it or not."

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 4

AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH STATEMENT: "ALABAMA PRISONS ARE TOO HARD ON THE INMATES"

"Alabama prisons are too hard on the inmates."	Agree %	Disagree %	Not sure %
Total	6	71	23
Male	6	77	17
Female	5	69	27
White	5	76	19
Black	10	59	31
18-30	7	74	19
31-45	3	68	29
46-60	10	71	19
61+	4	75	21
Some H.S./less	7	68	24
H.S. grad	9	73	18
Some college	2	74	25
College grad/more	2	71	27
Birmingham	6	71	23
Mobile	3	77	20
Huntsville	7	75	18
Montgomery	7	64	29
Florence*	13	60	28

"These next statements are about the Alabama state prison system. For each one, mark whether you agree with it or not."

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 5

AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH STATEMENT:
"PRISON TURNS PEOPLE INTO HARDENED CRIMINALS"

"Prison turns people into hardened criminals."	Agree %	Disagree %	Not sure %
Total	23	53	24
Male	24	57	19
Female	22	49	28
White	23	51	26
Black	24	55	21
18-30	25	55	20
31-45	15	59	26
46-60	29	50	21
61+	25	45	29
Some H.S./less	21	57	22
H.S. grad	27	49	24
Some college	19	55	25
College grad/more	25	50	25
Birmingham	19	55	26
Mobile	25	50	25
Huntsville	24	67	9
Montgomery	30	50	21
Florence*	25	33	42

"These next statements are about the Alabama state prison system. For each one, mark whether you agree with it or not."

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 6

ESTIMATING THE PORTION OF PRISONERS IN ALABAMA GUILTY OF VIOLENT CRIMES

"What portion of convicted prisoners in Alabama do you think are in prison because they committed a violent crime?"	25% (1 Of 4) %	(CORRECT)# 50% (2 of 4) %	75% (3 of 4) %	Almost all %	Not sure %
Total	26	28	20	7	20
Male	29	31	21	4	16
Female	23	26	19	10	23
White	28	31	19	5	17
Black	20	16	23	14	27
18-30	24	28	27	7	14
31-45	24	27	18	11	20
46-60	29	27	11	7	27
61+	29	29	16	3	23
Some H.S./less	16	26	15	12	30
H.S. grad	29	25	26	5	15
Some college	30	32	16	5	17
College grad/more	34	30	17	4	14
Birmingham	27	25	20	9	20
Mobile	20	26	23	1	31
Huntsville	34	39	11	8	8
Montgomery	31	31	26	5	9
Florence*	14	29	11	21	25

#"Familiarization Data: Department of Corrections," prepared for Prison Review Task Force, August 1987, p. 6

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 7

AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH STATEMENT: "THE VAST MAJORITY OF CONVICTED CRIMINAL OFFENDERS SHOULD SERVE AT LEAST SOME TIME IN PRISON"

"The vast majority of convicted criminal offenders should serve at least some time in prison."	Agree %	Disagree %	Not sure %
Total	77	10	12
Male	76	12	12
Female	80	9	11
White	80	9	12
Black	71	16	14
18-30	73	15	12
31-45	79	10	11
46-60	82	13	6
61+	79	2	19
Some H.S./less	73	3	24
H.S. grad	82	13	6
Some college	76	13	11
College grad/more	81	15	5
Birmingham	77	12	11
Mobile	73	11	17
Huntsville	77	12	12
Montgomery	81	6	13
Florence*	88	6	6

"These next statements are about the Alabama state prison system. For each one, mark whether you agree with it or not."

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 8

WHETHER PRISON SENTENCES SHOULD BE LONGER OR SHORTER

"In general, do you think prison sentences in Alabama should be...	Longer %	Shorter %	About the same %	Not sure %
Total	41	4	28	27
Male	39	6	35	20
Female	44	1	22	33
White	44	3	27	26
Black	41	6	26	28
18-30	41	8	21	30
31-45	40	3	29	29
46-60	43	1	28	28
61+	42	1	38	19
Some H.S./less	41	4	37	18
H.S. grad	42	4	25	29
Some college	39	4	26	32
College grad/more	51	--	21	28
Birmingham	46	4	24	26
Mobile	34	4	34	29
Huntsville	45	6	29	21
Montgomery	33	2	23	41
Florence*	42	4	46	9

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 9

WHETHER ALABAMA NEEDS MORE PRISONS

"In your opinion, does the state of Alabama need more prisons, or not?"	Yes %	No %	Not sure %
Total	69	18	13
Male	69	24	7
Female	69	13	18
White	69	18	13
Black	68	20	12
18-30	73	17	10
31-45	62	18	20
46-60	67	23	11
61+	73	16	11
Some H.S./less	69	16	15
H.S. grad	68	18	14
Some college	71	19	10
College grad/more	63	23	15
Birmingham	65	21	14
Mobile	79	11	10
Huntsville	60	23	17
Montgomery	69	23	8
Florence*	75	2	23

"These next statements are about the Alabama state prison system. For each one, mark whether you agree with it or not."

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 10

SENTENCING: ARMED ROBBERY (3RD OFFENSE)

Where would you put this offender?	Probation %	Prison %	Not sure %
Total	4	93	2
Male	3	95	2
Female	4	93	3
White	3	95	2
Black	5	92	3
18-30	4	93	3
31-45	2	97	1
46-60	4	94	2
61+	4	92	4
Some H.S./less	3	90	7
H.S. grad	3	96	1
Some college	4	95	1
College grad/more	3	97	--
Birmingham	4	93	2
Mobile	2	98	--
Huntsville	7	88	5
Montgomery	4	94	2
Florence*	7	87	6

"One night Tom, 25, cornered a woman in an alley. He pointed a loaded gun at her and took her purse. Tom was caught and convicted of armed robbery. Prior to this crime, he was convicted of burglary and selling drugs. The armed robbery was his third offense. Where would you put this offender?"

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 11

SENTENCING: JOYRIDING (1ST OFFENSE)

Where would you put this offender?	Probation %	Prison %	Not sure %
Total	89	9	3
Male	89	10	1
Female	90	7	4
White	91	7	2
Black	84	13	3
18-30	86	14	--
31-45	90	9	1
46-60	86	4	10
61+	94	2	4
Some H.S./less	85	7	8
H.S. grad	92	8	1
Some college	88	11	1
College grad/more	94	5	1
Birmingham	86	10	5
Mobile	93	5	2
Huntsville	96	4	--
Montgomery	86	14	--
Florence*	87	6	7

"Bill, 23, took a joyride in a sports car. He hot-wired the car and drove it around for a couple of hours, then returned it undamaged. Later he was caught. This was his first offense. Where would you put this offender?"

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 12

SENTENCING: PETTY THEFT (1ST OFFENSE)

Where would you put this offender?	Probation %	Prison %	Not sure %
Total	80	13	7
Male	83	13	4
Female	77	14	9
White	80	13	7
Black	80	13	6
18-30	81	11	7
31-45	82	15	3
46-60	87	7	6
61+	72	17	11
Some H.S./less	70	16	14
H.S. grad	88	10	2
Some college	82	13	5
College grad/more	79	12	8
Birmingham	80	13	8
Mobile	78	12	11
Huntsville	84	17	--
Montgomery	76	19	6
Florence*	85	5	9

"Bob, 24, was caught after stealing a $150 radio from an audio store. It was his first offense. Where would you put this offender?"

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 13

SENTENCING: PETTY THEFT (3RD OFFENSE)

Where would you put this offender?	Probation %	Prison %	Not sure %
Total	15	74	10
Male	11	81	8
Female	18	70	12
White	13	78	9
Black	20	64	16
18-30	19	71	10
31-45	19	70	11
46-60	9	78	14
61+	6	87	7
Some H.S./less	13	74	13
H.S. grad	12	81	7
Some college	16	72	12
College grad/more	24	69	7
Birmingham	13	75	12
Mobile	16	75	9
Huntsville	23	68	9
Montgomery	15	76	9
Florence*	16	80	4

"Now suppose that when Bob was arrested, he had two previous convictions for shoplifting. If we add it up, stealing the radio is his third offense. Where would you put this offender?"

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 14

SENTENCING: PETTY THEFT (5TH OFFENSE)

Where would you put this offender?	Probation %	Prison %	Not sure %
Total	5	90	5
Male	3	94	3
Female	6	87	7
White	5	91	4
Black	5	86	9
18-30	4	91	5
31-45	6	88	5
46-60	2	92	6
61+	5	92	3
Some H.S./less	3	92	5
H.S. grad	6	89	5
Some college	4	90	6
College grad/more	9	88	3
Birmingham	5	88	7
Mobile	6	91	3
Huntsville	8	90	2
Montgomery	2	92	6
Florence*	--	100	--

"Now imagine that Bob has been convicted for shoplifting four times before he stole the radio. That makes stealing the radio his fifth offense. Where would you put this offender?"

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 15

SENTENCING: PETTY THEFT (5TH OFFENSE, BUT WITH MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES)

Where would you put this offender?	Probation %	Prison %	Not sure %
Total	22	59	19
Male	24	58	17
Female	20	58	22
White	25	60	15
Black	17	53	31
18-30	20	63	17
31-45	18	59	24
46-60	27	53	20
61+	28	59	13
Some H.S./less	24	61	15
H.S. grad	25	57	18
Some college	18	60	22
College grad/more	20	57	23
Birmingham	19	59	22
Mobile	18	61	21
Huntsville	25	63	12
Montgomery	34	52	14
Florence*	25	62	13

"Finally, imagine that Bob has been convicted for shoplifting a total of five times, but that he also works two jobs and supports a wife and four young children. Where would you put this offender?"

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 16

SENTENCING: MUGGING AND RAPE (1ST OFFENSE)

Where would you put this offender?	Probation %	Prison %	Not sure %
Total	3	94	3
Male	--	98	2
Female	5	92	3
White	4	96	1
Black	2	90	8
18-30	1	95	3
31-45	1	98	1
46-60	5	91	4
61+	7	93	1
Some H.S./less	8	88	5
H.S. grad	1	97	2
Some college	2	97	1
College grad/more	--	99	1
Birmingham	4	92	4
Mobile	--	98	3
Huntsville	5	95	--
Montgomery	4	95	1
Florence*	6	94	--

"Gene, 25, mugged a young woman, dragged her into the park, and raped her. He was caught and convicted. This was his first offense. Where would you put this offender?"

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 17

SENTENCING: DRUNK DRIVING (1ST OFFENSE)

Where would you put this offender?	Probation %	Prison %	Not sure %
Total	80	13	6
Male	86	10	4
Female	76	16	8
White	83	12	5
Black	72	19	9
18-30	79	16	5
31-45	79	14	7
46-60	82	9	9
61+	81	13	6
Some H.S./less	77	12	11
H.S. grad	82	15	3
Some college	78	16	6
College grad/more	91	7	2
Birmingham	76	18	5
Mobile	81	13	6
Huntsville	79	11	10
Montgomery	88	8	5
Florence*	92	--	8

"One evening Joe, 23, was caught driving while drunk on the a state highway. This was his first offense. Where would you put this offender?"

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 18

SENTENCING: DRUNK DRIVING (2ND OFFENSE)

Where would you put this offender?	Probation %	Prison %	Not sure %
Total	30	51	19
Male	29	51	20
Female	32	49	19
White	29	52	19
Black	35	43	22
18-30	34	48	19
31-45	29	50	21
46-60	29	55	17
61+	27	55	18
Some H.S./less	29	50	21
H.S. grad	34	52	14
Some college	27	50	24
College grad/more	33	54	13
Birmingham	25	57	18
Mobile	30	42	28
Huntsville	42	52	6
Montgomery	41	45	14
Florence*	23	45	32

"Now imagine that Joe was caught a second time, and that this time he smashed into a fire hydrant. This is his second drunk driving offense. Where would you put this offender?"

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 19

SENTENCING: BURGLARY BY A 15-YEAR-OLD (1ST OFFENSE)

Where would you put this offender?	Probation %	Prison %	Not sure %
Total	74	20	6
Male	76	18	6
Female	72	23	6
White	76	19	5
Black	63	30	7
18-30	70	28	2
31-45	77	16	7
46-60	80	17	3
61+	70	19	10
Some H.S./less	71	15	14
H.S. grad	73	26	1
Some college	76	21	4
College grad/more	78	19	3
Birmingham	70	23	7
Mobile	80	15	5
Huntsville	75	18	7
Montgomery	72	25	3
Florence*	84	17	--

"Frank is a 15-year-old high school student. He broke into an empty gas station, stole some tools and broke into a cigarette machine. He was caught and convicted. This was his first offense. Where would you put this offender?"

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 20

SENTENCING: PETTY THEFT BY A WOMAN (5TH OFFENSE)

Where would you put this offender?	Probation %	Prison %	Not sure %
Total	18	71	11
Male	16	77	7
Female	18	69	13
White	18	73	10
Black	18	68	14
18-30	23	70	7
31-45	20	66	15
46-60	19	70	11
61+	6	84	10
Some H.S./less	18	71	11
H.S. grad	18	70	12
Some college	17	72	11
College grad/more	19	76	5
Birmingham	18	73	9
Mobile	23	66	11
Huntsville	18	75	7
Montgomery	15	66	20
Florence*	7	87	6

"Alice, 24, stole a dress worth about $150. When caught and convicted, it was learned that Alice had stolen things worth about $150 four other times over the past few years. That makes stealing the dress her fifth offense. Where would you put this offender?"

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 21

SENTENCING: PETTY THEFT BY A WOMAN (5TH OFFENSE, BUT WITH MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES)

Where would you put this offender?	Probation %	Prison %	Not sure %
Total	32	48	20
Male	33	51	17
Female	32	46	22
White	32	48	20
Black	34	49	17
18-30	33	53	14
31-45	27	50	23
46-60	38	42	21
61+	32	47	21
Some H.S./less	40	45	15
H.S. grad	32	47	21
Some college	26	54	21
College grad/more	31	47	22
Birmingham	29	49	22
Mobile	38	43	19
Huntsville	33	52	15
Montgomery	32	49	19
Florence*	32	55	14

"Now imagine that Alice has been convicted for shoplifting a total of five times, but that she also works two jobs and supports four young children. Where would you put this offender?"

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 22

SENTENCING: DRUG SELLING (1ST OFFENSE)

Where would you put this offender?	Probation %	Prison %	Not sure %
Total	42	54	4
Male	42	55	3
Female	41	54	5
White	41	56	3
Black	44	49	8
18-30	55	44	1
31-45	42	53	5
46-60	23	69	7
61+	32	64	4
Some H.S./less	40	57	2
H.S. grad	40	56	5
Some college	41	54	5
College grad/more	47	49	4
Birmingham	40	57	3
Mobile	42	51	7
Huntsville	48	50	2
Montgomery	45	49	6
Florence*	31	69	--

"Al, 22 was selling drugs in from of his home when he sold a small amount of cocaine to an undercover police officer. This was his first conviction. Where would you put this offender?"

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 23

SENTENCING: DRUG SELLING (3RD OFFENSE)

Where would you put this offender?	Probation %	Prison %	Not sure %
Total	19	62	19
Male	16	69	15
Female	21	56	24
White	18	64	18
Black	20	54	26
18-30	22	55	23
31-45	22	62	16
46-60	19	66	16
61+	4	75	21
Some H.S./less	7	70	23
H.S. grad	22	57	21
Some college	22	62	16
College grad/more	22	65	13
Birmingham	18	61	20
Mobile	18	62	20
Huntsville	23	63	15
Montgomery	18	63	19
Florence*	14	67	20

"Now imagine that Al is a drug addict who wants help. He has tried to get into a drug treatment clinic, but there is a six month wait. Also, Al has been convicted of selling drugs twice before. Selling cocaine to the police officer is his third offense. Where would you put this offender?"

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 24

SENTENCING: DRUG SELLING (5TH OFFENSE)

Where would you put this offender?	Probation %	Prison %	Not sure %
Total	10	74	16
Male	10	78	13
Female	10	70	19
White	8	79	13
Black	14	59	27
18-30	17	67	16
31-45	7	76	18
46-60	9	74	17
61+	5	86	10
Some H.S./less	8	75	18
H.S. grad	8	72	20
Some college	12	77	11
College grad/more	16	74	10
Birmingham	11	69	20
Mobile	8	78	15
Huntsville	21	74	5
Montgomery	3	76	21
Florence*	7	93	--

"Now imagine that Al has been convicted of selling cocaine a total of four times in the past. He is still an addict, and looking for help. Now, selling the cocaine to the police officer is his fifth offense. Where would you put this offender?"

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 25

SENTENCING: BURGLARY (1ST OFFENSE)

Where would you put this offender?	Probation %	Prison %	Not sure %
Total	64	31	6
Male	62	36	3
Female	65	27	8
White	62	34	5
Black	65	27	8
18-30	65	33	2
31-45	65	29	6
46-60	65	24	11
61+	55	39	6
Some H.S./less	60	36	4
H.S. grad	63	31	6
Some college	68	26	7
College grad/more	63	32	6
Birmingham	62	32	7
Mobile	64	28	8
Huntsville	68	26	6
Montgomery	62	38	--
Florence*	71	29	--

"Late one night, Phil, 22, picked the lock at an electronics shop and stole a $5,000 stereo. There was no one in the store, Phil was not armed. This was his first offense. Where would you put this offender?"

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 26

SENTENCING: BURGLARY (2ND OFFENSE)

Where would you put this offender?	Probation %	Prison %	Not sure %
Total	21	68	12
Male	20	73	7
Female	20	64	17
White	17	71	12
Black	26	61	14
18-30	23	67	10
31-45	22	68	10
46-60	23	62	14
61+	11	76	14
Some H.S./less	16	71	14
H.S. grad	23	65	12
Some college	20	68	12
College grad/more	19	72	8
Birmingham	25	63	12
Mobile	19	69	12
Huntsville	14	78	8
Montgomery	20	72	9
Florence*	14	63	24

"Now imagine that Phil had committed a similar burglary three years ago. That means that stealing the stereo was his second offense. Where would you put this offender?"

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 27

SENTENCING: BURGLARY (2ND OFFENSE, BUT ARMED)

Where would you put this offender?	Probation %	Prison %	Not sure %
Total	9	83	8
Male	7	88	5
Female	10	80	11
White	8	86	6
Black	14	72	14
18-30	10	81	9
31-45	8	83	9
46-60	13	77	11
61+	7	89	4
Some H.S./less	15	80	5
H.S. grad	7	84	10
Some college	8	81	10
College grad/more	6	89	5
Birmingham	11	81	8
Mobile	8	77	15
Huntsville	4	96	--
Montgomery	12	84	5
Florence*	7	87	6

"Finally, imagine that when Phil committed these burglaries, he was armed with a loaded pistol, but he never used it. It's still his second offense. Where would you put this offender?"

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 28

SENTENCING: ROBBERY INVOLVING THREE MEN (MAN WHO SHOT THE SALESMAN IN THE ARM)

Where would you put this offender?	Probation %	Prison %	Not sure %
Total	1	97	2
Male	2	98	--
Female	1	96	3
White	1	98	1
Black	3	94	4
18-30	--	99	1
31-45	2	97	1
46-60	2	92	6
61+	--	100	--
Some H.S./less	2	97	1
H.S. grad	2	97	1
Some college	--	97	3
College grad/more	--	99	1
Birmingham	1	98	1
Mobile	--	98	2
Huntsville	--	99	1
Montgomery	2	95	3
Florence*	7	87	6

"This case involves three men, each of whom has a record for car theft. While driving around one night, they decided to rob a liquor store. They had been drinking heavily and before they got to the store, the third man passed out drunk in the back seat. The first man entered the store with a gun a demanded money while the other two stayed in the car. When the salesman moved, the man panicked, shot him in the arm, and took $400. They were caught, so this is the second offense for each man. Where would you put the man who shot the salesman?"

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 29

SENTENCING: ROBBERY INVOLVING THREE MEN (MAN WHO DROVE GETAWAY CAR)

Where would you put this offender?	Probation %	Prison %	Not sure %
Total	15	78	7
Male	12	84	4
Female	18	73	8
White	14	81	5
Black	21	68	12
18-30	13	80	7
31-45	13	77	9
46-60	18	75	7
61+	15	81	3
Some H.S./less	12	79	8
H.S. grad	15	80	5
Some college	18	75	7
College grad/more	11	81	9
Birmingham	13	79	8
Mobile	11	84	5
Huntsville	16	77	7
Montgomery	16	77	7
Florence*	39	57	4

"This case involves three men, each of whom has a record for car theft. While driving around one night, they decided to rob a liquor store. They had been drinking heavily and before they got to the store, the third man passed out drunk in the back seat. The first man entered the store with a gun a demanded money while the other two stayed in the car. When the salesman moved, the man panicked, shot him in the arm, and took $400. They were caught, so this is the second offense for each man. Where would you put the man who drove the getaway car?"

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 30

SENTENCING: ROBBERY INVOLVING THREE MEN (MAN WHO AGREED TO ROBBERY BUT FELL ASLEEP IN CAR)

Where would you put this offender?	Probation %	Prison %	Not sure %
Total	37	50	13
Male	35	53	12
Female	41	47	13
White	37	53	11
Black	38	43	19
18-30	32	56	13
31-45	35	48	17
46-60	39	52	9
61+	46	44	10
Some H.S./less	40	51	9
H.S. grad	38	51	11
Some college	35	49	17
College grad/more	36	49	15
Birmingham	39	49	13
Mobile	35	50	15
Huntsville	33	60	8
Montgomery	35	51	15
Florence*	54	37	10

"This case involves three men, each of whom has a record for car theft. While driving around one night, they decided to rob a liquor store. They had been drinking heavily and before they got to the store, the third man passed out drunk in the back seat. The first man entered the store with a gun a demanded money while the other two stayed in the car. When the salesman moved, the man panicked, shot him in the arm, and took $400. They were caught, so this is the second offense for each man. Where would you put the man who agreed to the robbery but then fell asleep in the back of the getaway car?"

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 31

SENTENCING: EMBEZZLEMENT (1ST OFFENSE)

Where would you put this offender?	Probation %	Prison %	Not sure %
Total	22	71	7
Male	22	72	7
Female	22	72	7
White	21	73	7
Black	25	65	9
18-30	23	70	7
31-45	27	64	9
46-60	24	68	8
61+	13	84	4
Some H.S./less	25	70	6
H.S. grad	21	71	8
Some college	22	72	5
College grad/more	16	72	12
Birmingham	18	74	9
Mobile	29	64	7
Huntsville	14	84	2
Montgomery	28	63	9
Florence*	27	73	--

"Lou, 26, connected his home computer to the main computer at a bank. By manipulating the bank's records, he stole a total of $250,000 over three years. Lou was finally caught and convicted of embezzlement. It was his first offense. Where would you put this offender?"

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 32

SENTENCING: ARMED ROBBERY BY A 15-YEAR-OLD (1ST OFFENSE)

Where would you put this offender?	Probation %	Prison for juveniles %	Not sure %
Total	18	78	4
Male	15	80	5
Female	20	77	3
White	20	76	4
Black	14	81	5
18-30	10	86	4
31-45	18	81	1
46-60	20	74	7
61+	28	66	6
Some H.S./less	20	72	8
H.S. grad	17	80	3
Some college	17	81	2
College grad/more	17	79	4
Birmingham	17	79	4
Mobile	19	76	6
Huntsville	15	85	1
Montgomery	14	79	8
Florence*	34	66	--

"Paul is a 15-year-old high school student. One night he pulled a knife on a woman in the street and demanded money. When she resisted, he slashed her arm. Paul was caught and convicted. This was his first offense. Where would you put this offender?"

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 33

PERCEIVED CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN PRISON IN ALABAMA OVER 10 YEARS

"Over the last ten years, do you think the number of people in prison in Alabama has..."	Slightly decreased %	Stayed same %	Slightly increased %	Increased a lot %	(CORRECT)# More than double %	Not sure %
Total	3	4	19	39	14	21
Male	2	3	21	44	12	18
Female	3	5	18	36	15	23
White	2	4	23	40	11	20
Black	4	5	12	35	20	24
18-30	1	8	14	39	17	21
31-45	5	1	21	36	14	23
46-60	3	4	27	32	11	23
61+	--	3	18	51	9	19
Some H.S./less	3	8	18	38	9	25
H.S. grad	2	4	21	39	15	19
Some college	2	3	18	42	17	20
College grad/more	4	3	22	40	10	21
Birmingham	2	5	19	40	13	21
Mobile	5	2	22	38	11	22
Huntsville	--	10	20	42	16	13
Montgomery	2	3	17	31	22	25
Florence*	6	2	15	52	4	20

#"Report of the Alabama Judicial Study Commission," Prison Review Task Force, January 7, 1988, p. J-4.

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 34

PERCEIVED ANNUAL COST OF KEEPING A PERSON IN PRISON IN ALABAMA

"About how much do you think it costs to keep one person in an Alabama state prison for a year?"	About $4k %	About $6k %	About $8k %	About $10k %	About $12k (CORRECT)# %	About $15k %	Not sure %
Total	3	6	12	18	10	23	29
Male	4	6	10	20	14	30	16
Female	1	5	14	17	7	17	39
White	1	5	12	20	12	27	23
Black	4	9	12	14	5	11	46
18-30	1	5	13	24	8	20	29
31-45	6	8	12	14	8	21	31
46-60	5	6	8	13	13	27	29
61+	--	4	12	17	15	27	26
Some H.S./less	4	6	15	16	11	17	31
H.S. grad	4	4	11	20	10	21	30
Some college	1	7	11	16	8	29	27
College grad/more	2	8	9	17	14	27	23
Birmingham	4	5	11	15	13	21	32
Mobile	3	5	6	19	10	29	29
Huntsville	1	1	15	30	8	26	19
Montgomery	1	16	18	13	10	19	24
Florence*	7	7	16	20	--	17	33

#"The Cost of Corrections in the State of Alabama: A Report for the Legislative Confrence on Critical Issues and Problems of Corrections in Alabama," The Alabama Department of Corrections, January 1989, Table 1.

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 35

AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH STATEMENT: "CASTRATING A RAPIST AMOUNTS TO CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT"

"Castrating a rapist amounts to cruel and unusual punishment."	Agree %	Disagree %	Not sure %
Total	46	38	16
Male	48	36	15
Female	44	39	16
White	44	40	16
Black	54	30	16
18-30	46	41	14
31-45	36	45	19
46-60	50	29	21
61+	55	33	12
Some H.S./less	36	41	23
H.S. grad	49	38	13
Some college	52	33	15
College grad/more	44	46	9
Birmingham	43	38	19
Mobile	44	37	19
Huntsville	42	50	8
Montgomery	63	28	10
Florence*	47	40	14

"As you may know, the Constitution prohibits cruel and unusual punishment, but people sometimes disagree about what "cruel and unusual" punishment means. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?"

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 36

AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH STATEMENT: "PUTTING SOMEONE IN AN OVERCROWDED PRISON AMOUNTS TO CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT"

"Putting someone in an overcrowded prison amounts to cruel and unusual punishment."	Agree %	Disagree %	Not sure %
Total	27	61	12
Male	23	66	12
Female	30	57	13
White	24	62	13
Black	33	57	10
18-30	19	75	7
31-45	21	66	13
46-60	37	50	13
61+	35	47	20
Some H.S./less	35	51	15
H.S. grad	24	64	12
Some college	26	63	11
College grad/more	16	74	10
Birmingham	25	65	10
Mobile	29	52	19
Huntsville	20	67	13
Montgomery	31	59	10
Florence*	31	61	8

"As you may know, the Constitution prohibits cruel and unusual punishment, but people sometimes disagree about what "cruel and unusual" punishment means. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?"

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 37

AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH STATEMENT: "TAKING AWAY SOMEONE'S DRIVERS LICENSE AMOUNTS TO CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT"

"Taking away someone's driver's license amounts to cruel and unusual punishment."	Agree %	Disagree %	Not sure %
Total	9	85	7
Male	8	87	6
Female	9	83	8
White	6	87	7
Black	17	80	3
18-30	8	89	3
31-45	10	84	7
46-60	12	81	7
61+	6	83	11
Some H.S./less	11	77	12
H.S. grad	11	84	5
Some college	5	91	4
College grad/more	5	91	3
Birmingham	10	87	3
Mobile	10	81	10
Huntsville	1	90	10
Montgomery	9	87	4
Florence*	14	68	19

"As you may know, the Constitution prohibits cruel and unusual punishment, but people sometimes disagree about what "cruel and unusual" punishment means. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?"

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 38

REACTION TO POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO ALABAMA PRISON OVERCROWDING: "BUILD MORE PRISONS BY RAISING TAXES"

"Build more prisons and pay for them by raising taxes."	Favor %	Oppose %	Not sure %
Total	19	60	21
Male	25	57	17
Female	13	63	24
White	20	62	18
Black	17	57	26
18-30	14	60	27
31-45	18	62	20
46-60	16	68	16
61+	28	54	17
Some H.S./less	26	57	17
H.S. grad	13	63	25
Some college	17	61	21
College grad/more	29	56	15
Birmingham	18	68	15
Mobile	22	51	28
Huntsville	15	66	20
Montgomery	20	55	25
Florence*	19	46	35

"As you may know, the courts have ruled that Alabama prisons are overcrowded. Here are some possible solutions. Mark how you feel about each one."

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 40

REACTION TO POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO ALABAMA PRISON OVERCROWDING: "BUILD MORE PRISONS BY CUTTING BACK IN OTHER AREAS"

"Build more prisons and pay for them by cutting back in other areas like education and health care."	Favor %	Oppose %	Not sure %
Total	3	91	7
Male	4	91	5
Female	1	91	8
White	3	92	5
Black	3	87	10
18-30	2	92	6
31-45	--	93	8
46-60	4	90	6
61+	6	87	8
Some H.S./less	7	79	14
H.S. grad	1	94	5
Some college	2	94	5
College grad/more	1	97	2
Birmingham	--	94	6
Mobile	5	92	3
Huntsville	2	94	4
Montgomery	4	86	10
Florence*	12	63	26

"As you may know, the courts have ruled that Alabama prisons are overcrowded. Here are some possible solutions. Mark how you feel about each one."

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 41

REACTION TO POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO ALABAMA PRISON OVERCROWDING: "RELEASE SOME 'NONVIOLENT' OFFENDERS A FEW MONTHS EARLY"

"Release some 'nonviolent' offenders from prison a few months early."	Favor %	Oppose %	Not sure %
Total	57	27	16
Male	59	27	14
Female	56	28	17
White	60	26	14
Black	52	30	18
18-30	50	33	17
31-45	60	26	14
46-60	62	25	13
61+	63	21	17
Some H.S./less	50	32	19
H.S. grad	61	23	16
Some college	57	31	12
College grad/more	65	19	16
Birmingham	51	35	14
Mobile	56	24	21
Huntsville	67	19	14
Montgomery	66	19	15
Florence*	62	26	13

"As you may know, the courts have ruled that Alabama prisons are overcrowded. Here are some possible solutions. Mark how you feel about each one."

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 42

REACTION TO POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO ALABAMA PRISON OVERCROWDING: "USE CAPITAL PUNISHMENT MORE OFTEN FOR THE MOST SERIOUS CRIMES"

"Use capital punishment more often for the most serious crimes, such as murder."	Favor %	Oppose %	Not sure %
Total	72	18	10
Male	74	20	6
Female	71	16	13
White	77	15	8
Black	56	30	15
18-30	70	22	8
31-45	76	12	12
46-60	74	19	7
61+	70	19	12
Some H.S./less	72	22	6
H.S. grad	75	15	10
Some college	70	17	14
College grad/more	70	24	5
Birmingham	71	17	12
Mobile	67	27	7
Huntsville	75	15	11
Montgomery	74	17	9
Florence*	89	2	10

"As you may know, the courts have ruled that Alabama prisons are overcrowded. Here are some possible solutions. Mark how you feel about each one."

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

TABLE 43

REACTION TO POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO ALABAMA PRISON OVERCROWDING: "FIND NEW WAYS TO PUNISH OFFENDERS THAT ARE LESS EXPENSIVE THAN PRISON BUT HARSHER THAN PROBATION"

"Find new ways to punish offenders that are less expensive than probation but harsher than prison."	Favor %	Oppose %	Not sure %
Total	84	6	10
Male	85	6	9
Female	82	7	11
White	87	5	8
Black	73	11	17
18-30	81	10	9
31-45	81	7	12
46-60	91	4	5
61+	84	3	13
Some H.S./less	78	7	15
H.S. grad	88	5	7
Some college	82	8	10
College grad/more	88	5	7
Birmingham	82	9	10
Mobile	80	8	13
Huntsville	85	8	8
Montgomery	94	--	6
Florence*	81	--	19

"As you may know, the courts have ruled that Alabama prisons are overcrowded. Here are some possible solutions. Mark how you feel about each one."

*Accounts for only 6% of total sample.

IV. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In a 1987 study for the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation, the Public Agenda reported that, under certain conditions, there was considerable public interest in using alternative sentences rather than prison. The study, Crime and Punishment: The Public's View, was based on a series of focused group interviews (or focus groups) with about a dozen people each in different cities across the country. While considerable effort went into exploring and analyzing people's views, the study's findings were hypotheses, not definitive results, because focus groups, by definition, cannot yield quantifiable results with a precise sampling error.

Subsequently, the Clark Foundation expressed interest in a more rigorous, systematic exploration of public opinion about these issues that would use a representative sample and that could be analyzed with confidence. Alabama was selected because of the severity that state's prison overcrowding and because of Clark's involvement with corrections officials and other state leaders. Specifically, Clark asked the Public Agenda to explore Alabamians' thinking about prison overcrowding and the use of alternative sentences. However, these are issues that can not be explored in great depth using an ordinary telephone survey and a probability or random sample. While a telephone survey can ask people about issues that are familiar, it can not measure their views, let alone their considered judgments, about unfamiliar or especially complex issues. Even the most sophisticated questionnaire can introduce only a limited amount of information such as the tradeoffs, risks and costs associated with a policy. Finally, opinion polling measures the views of an isolated individual without reflecting the impact of discussing an issue with others or of seeing the implications of different positions.

To analyze public opinion about complex and unfamiliar issues such as welfare reform and U.S.-Soviet relations, the Public Agenda developed and used a research method called the Citizen Review Panel. This method combines the strengths of focus groups and traditional surveys. It is designed to do three things:

1. To measure people's "starting point," their feelings about an issue before learning more and discussing the issue with their peers (this is what would normally be gauged using a telephone survey);
2. To introduce information, including the costs and benefits, and arguments for and against various options, then give citizens the time and opportunity to work through their feelings about this material by discussing it at some length;
3. Finally, to assess people's considered judgments, their views about these issues after they have assessed the information and reached an informed judgment characterized by responsible, stable thinking.

First developed in a project for the Ford Foundation (see The Public's Perspective on Social Welfare Reform, The Public Agenda Foundation, January, 1988.), the Citizen Review Panels were well-suited to measuring Alabamians' views about crime and alternative sentences. We interviewed a broad cross section of Alabama residents in 30 sessions across the state; each session lasted about three hours. In each meeting, the Alabama participants filled out a pretest questionnaire, then watched a video documentary written and produced by the Public Agenda. The documentary described the problem of prison overcrowding and the shortage of sentencing options, then presented a balanced look at five alternative sentences, including the tradeoffs, risks and estimated costs of each, and the main arguments for and against using

alternatives. After the film, respondents broke up into professionally moderated groups of about fifteen people each to discuss what they had seen. They then filled out a second questionnaire called a posttest.

During the discussion, participants talked about the problem of crime and considered the five alternatives. Participants were asked to think of themselves as members of a panel advising the governor, the state legislature and other state officials about prison overcrowding and the use of alternatives. Moderators made it clear that the Public Agenda took no position on the issue, and that they were to decide what was in the best interest of the state after they had assessed the costs, risks and trade-offs.

Panels were conducted in September and October, 1988, with a total of 422 people in five cities (Florence, Huntsville, Birmingham, Montgomery, and Mobile) and smaller towns such as Attala and Guntersville. (The sample was designed by Dr. Philip Coulter, Director of the Institute for Social Science Research at the University of Alabama and is fully described below.) Panels were assembled using quotas based on race, sex, education, and income to reflect the adult population of the state.

The discussions were led by moderators from the Human Organization Sciences Institute (HOSI) at Villanova University which worked with the Public Agenda on a previous panel study of citizens' attitudes toward the nuclear arms race and US-Soviet relations. The moderators were faculty members at Villanova University or St. Joseph's College in Philadelphia, and were trained by Public Agenda staff in two, three-hour sessions. As the panels were conducted, each session was monitored for content and consistency.

The video documentary and other materials used in the project including the pre- and posttest questionnaires were developed after conducting numerous in-depth interviews about prison overcrowding and alternative sentences with experts in Alabama and across the country. In addition, the video was tested for fairness, balance and understandability in a focus group, and the questionnaires were pretested for length, balance, and understandability.

The issue was presented as a twofold dilemma. First, respondents were told, judges in many jurisdictions have only two sentencing options: prison or probation. Choosing between them does not allow leeway for those who commit what are called intermediate offenses, crimes for which prison seems too harsh and probation too lenient. Second, prisons in most states are overcrowded to the point that the federal courts have ruled that confinement in them amounts to cruel and unusual punishment, a violation of the Constitution. About three dozen states are now under federal court order to reduce prison overcrowding either by building more prisons or releasing some inmates.

The panels proceeded in stages:

First, in the pretest, we asked respondents to sentence 23 offenders in criminal cases ranging from shoplifting to rape and armed robbery. With these cases, respondents had only two options: prison or probation. We provided details about each crime and offender. Respondents were also presented with a number of more general questions relating to crime and prisons.

Second, the video and discussion presented five generic alternative sentences designed after consultation with criminal justice experts. The alternatives were summarized on a sheet that as a memory aide in the

discussion and included along with the questionaires in Part IV. of this appendix. The alternatives were:

Strict Probation;
Strict Probation plus Restitution;
Strict Probation plus Community Service;
House Arrest;
Boot Camp.

Third, after seeing the video and discussing the issues, respondents were given a second, posttest questionnaire that asked them to sentence the same 23 offenders as before, but this time using seven options: prison, probation and the five alternatives.

The 23 cases ranged in seriousness. Research on crime classifications in Alabama and other states enabled us to design cases so they might have some use as proxies for other crimes. The alternatives were presented so that we could learn what the participants liked and disliked about each. Though generic, the alternatives were representative of those being used around the country. Finally, we provided rough estimates of the cost and amount of control of the offender each provides.

Relevant information about each offender was narrowed to reduce complexity. Based on preliminary research, we designed the cases to shed light on the effect on people's thinking of these variables: gender (in two cases), age (in two cases), the number of prior convictions, mitigating circumstances (described as family and job responsibilities), and the use of or the threat of violence during the commission of the crime.

Drawing a Representative Sample of the People of Alabama

by Dr. Philip Coulter, Director

The Institute for Social Science Research, The University of Alabama

The methodological objective was to select a group of at least 400 participants from several Alabama metropolitan areas who reasonably represented the adult population of Alabama with respect to four demographic characteristics: race, sex, education, and age. The demographic categories used were ethnicity: black and white; sex: male and female; education: 0-8 years of formal education completed, 9-12 years completed, and 13 or more years completed; and age: 19-34 years, 35-54 years, and 55 or older.

Numerous combinations of four and five metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) were examined with respect to the extent to which their demographic characteristics accurately reflected statewide demographic pattern, based on 1980 census data. The combination of Birmingham, Huntsville, Montgomery, Florence, and Mobile, containing 14 counties, provided the best demographic representation. In addition, these five MSAs represent north, central, and south Alabama.

Each county's percentage of the total population of all five MSAs was computed. A total of 400 focus group participants was used as a base, and 15 percent was added to compensate for the possibility of absenteeism, making a total of 464 participants. Each county was allocated the number of participants corresponding to its percentage of the total combined populations. For example, Jefferson County (in the Birmingham MSA) contains 33 percent of the total MSA population. Thirty-three percent of 464 equals 155 participants. Applying this method to all 14 counties produced the following allocation of the 464 participants.

HUNTSVILLE (60)	
Madison	45
Marshall	15

FLORENCE (28)	
Lauderdale	18
Colbert	10

MONTGOMERY (63)	
Autauga	7
Elmore	8
Montgomery	48

MOBILE (105)	
Baldwin	18
Mobile	87

BIRMINGHAM (208)	
Jefferson	155
Blount	7
Walker	22
Shelby	16
St. Clair	8

The next step in the methodology was subdividing each county's allocation on the basis of the county's demographic breakdown. This was done by multiplying a county's percent in each demographic category by its allocation of participants. For example, Jefferson County's population is 33.5 percent black and 66.5 percent white. This means that of 155 participants, 52 black (155 x .335) and 103 white (155 x .665) residents were recruited. This method was used for each county of every category of the four demographic characteristics.

This method produced a quota sample of participants that reflects the five MSAs, which in turn reflect the state in terms of ethnicity, sex, education, and age. The following table presents the information used to apportion each county's total participant allocation to demographic groups.

DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS IN PERCENTAGES

	HUNTSVILLE MSA		FLORENCE MSA	
	Madison	Marshall	Lauderdale	Colbert
% black	19	2	10	17
% white	81	98	90	83
% male	49	48	48	48
% female	51	52	52	52
% age 19-34	44	37	40	38
% age 35-54	34	32	31	32
% age 55+	22	31	29	30
% 0-8 years school	16.5	29	25	24
% 9-12 years school	45	51	51	54
% 13+ years school	39	21	24	21
Total population	196,966	65,622	80,546	54,519
# of participants	45	15	18	10

	MOBILE MSA		MONTGOMERY MSA		
	Baldwin	Mobile	Autauga	Elmore	Montgomery
% black	15	32	22.5	22	40
% white	85	68	77.5	78	60
% male	49	48	49	49.5	47
% female	51	52	51	50.5	53
% age 19-34	37	43	40	37	43
% age 35-54	31	29	36	29	30
% age 55+	32	27	25	34	27
% 0-8 years school	21.5	19.5	23	23	18
% 9-12 years school	52	54	52	56	47
% 13+ years school	26.5	27	24	21	36
Total population	78,556	364,498	32,259	43,390	197,038
# of participants	18	87	7	8	48

DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS IN PERCENTAGES, continued.

	BIRMINGHAM MSA				
	Jefferson	Blount	Walker	Shelby	St. Clair
% black	33.5	2	7	10	10
% white	66.5	98	93	90	90
% male	47	49.5	48	49	49
% female	53	50.5	52	51	51
% age 19-34 years	41	37	38	46	39
% age 35-54 years	29	33	31	32	32
% age 55+ years	30	30	31	22	28
% 0-8 years school	18	32	33.5	20	29
% 9-12 years school	50.5	54	28	48	54.5
% 13+ years school	31.5	14	38	32	16
Total population	671,374	36,459	68,660	66,298	41,205
# of participants	155	7	22	16	8

PANEL COMPARED TO THE FIVE MSAs AND TO STATE DEMOGRAPHICS (1980 CENSUS)

	PAF Sample %	5 MSAs* %	State of Alabama* %
RACE			
White	74	74	74
Nonwhite	26	26	26
SEX			
Male	48	48	48
Female	52	52	52
AGE			
18 to 30	33	32#	32
31 to 45	29	28	28
46 to 60	22	18	18
61 and over	16	22	22
EDUCATION			
0 to 8 years	8	20	21
9 to 12 years	53	51	59
13 or more years	39	29	21
CITY			
Birmingham	44	45	--
Mobile	23	22	--
Huntsville	13	13	--
Montgomery	14	14	--
Florence	6	7	--
URBANITY			
Urban Counties	80	70	61
Rural Counties	20	30	40
INCOME			
Median Income	$21,010	$17,199	$16,347

*Based on 1980 Census data. The composition of the five Metropolitan Statistical Areas is detailed on previous pages.

#Age demographics for the five MSAs are estimated.

Note: Percents may not always add to 100, due to rounding.

V. QUESTIONNAIRES AND HANDOUT

The Public Agenda Foundation
6 East 39th Street
New York, N.Y. 10016
(212) 686-6610
Questionnaire #2: Posttest

INTERVIEW #-- DO NOT FILL IN

/ -1/ -2/ -3/

THE PUBLIC AGENDA FOUNDATION

PLEASE BEGIN HERE

INSTRUCTIONS: Go through the questionnaire and again answer each question. Many questions are the same as the ones you answered earlier, We're asking them again to see how, if at all, your views changed after seeing the films and discussing the issues. As before, just circle the number of your answer.

What is your name? _____
PRINT YOUR FULL NAME ON THE LINE ABOVE

1. Where do you live? (Circle the number across from your county.)

a. Jefferson.....4-5 -1
b. Blount..... -2
c. Walker..... -3
d. Shelby..... -4
e. St. Clair..... -5
f. Madison..... -6
g. Marshall..... -7
h. Lauderdale..... -8
i. Colbert..... -9
j. Autauga..... -10
k. Elmore..... -11
l. Montgomery..... -12
m. Baldwin..... -13
n. Mobile..... -14

o. Other _____ -15
Please Specify

2. The vast majority of convicted criminal offenders should serve at least some time in prison -- do you:

a. Agree.....6 -1
b. Disagree..... -2
c. Not sure..... -3

3. In general, do you think prison sentences in Alabama should be:

a. Longer.....7 -1
b. Shorter..... -2
c. About the same..... -3
d. Not sure..... -4

4. In your opinion, does the state of Alabama need more prisons, or not?

a. Yes.....8 -1
b. No..... -2
c. Not sure..... -3

For each case below, there is a list of punishments including five alternatives to regular probation and prison. Decide what would be best in each case. Assume there are no other crimes than the ones described here.

THE CASE OF TOM -- ARMED ROBBERY

5. One night Tom, 25, cornered a woman in an alley. He pointed a loaded gun at her and took her purse. Tom was caught and convicted of armed robbery. Prior to this crime, he had been convicted of burglary and selling drugs . The armed robbery was his third offense.

Where would you put this offender?

a. Regular probation.....9 -1
b. Strict probation..... -2
c. Strict probation + restitution..... -3
d. Strict probation + community service. -4
e. House arrest..... -5
f. Boot camp..... -6
g. Prison..... -7
h. Not sure..... -8

THE CASE OF BILL -- JOYRIDING

6. Bill, 23, took a joyride in a new sports car. He hot-wired the car and drove around for a couple of hours, then returned it undamaged. Later he was caught. This was his first offense.

Where would you put this offender?

a. Regular probation.....10 -1
b. Strict probation..... -2
c. Strict probation + restitution..... -3
d. Strict probation + community service.. -4
e. House arrest..... -5
f. Boot camp..... -6
g. Prison..... -7
h. Not sure..... -8

THE CASE OF BOB -- THEFT

7. Bob, 24, was caught trying to steal a $150 radio from an audio store. It was his first offense.

Where would you put this offender?

a. Regular probation.....11 -1
b. Strict probation..... -2
c. Strict probation + restitution..... -3
d. Strict probation + community service.. -4
e. House arrest..... -5
f. Boot camp..... -6
g. Prison..... -7
h. Not sure..... -8

8. Now suppose that when Bob was arrested, he had two previous convictions for shoplifting. If we add it up, stealing the radio is his third offense.

Where would you put this offender?

a. Regular probation.....12 -1
b. Strict probation..... -2
c. Strict probation + restitution..... -3
d. Strict probation + community service.. -4
e. House arrest..... -5
f. Boot camp..... -6
g. Prison..... -7
h. Not sure..... -8

9. Now imagine that Bob has been convicted for shoplifting four times before he stole the radio. That makes this his fifth offense.

Where would you put this offender?

a. Regular probation.....13 -1
b. Strict probation..... -2
c. Strict probation + restitution..... -3
d. Strict probation + community service.. -4
e. House arrest..... -5
f. Boot camp..... -6
g. Prison..... -7
h. Not sure..... -8

10. Finally, imagine that Bob has been convicted for shoplifting a total of five times, but that he also works two jobs, and supports a wife and four young children.

Where would you put this offender?

a. Regular probation.....14 -1
b. Strict probation..... -2
c. Strict probation + restitution..... -3
d. Strict probation + community service.. -4
e. House arrest..... -5
f. Boot camp..... -6
g. Prison..... -7
h. Not sure..... -8

THE CASE OF GENE -- RAPE

11. Gene, 25, mugged a young woman, dragged her into the park, and raped her. He was caught and convicted. This was his first offense.

Where would you put this offender?

a. Regular probation.....15 -1
b. Strict probation..... -2
c. Strict probation + restitution..... -3
d. Strict probation + community service.. -4
e. House arrest..... -5
f. Boot camp..... -6
g. Prison..... -7
h. Not sure..... -8

THE CASE OF JOE -- DRUNK DRIVING

12. One evening Joe, 23, was caught driving while drunk on a state highway. This was his first offense.

Where would you put this offender?

a. Regular probation.....16 -1
b. Strict probation..... -2
c. Strict probation + restitution..... -3
d. Strict probation + community service.. -4
e. House arrest..... -5
f. Boot camp..... -6
g. Prison..... -7
h. Not sure..... -8

13. Now imagine that Joe was caught a second time, and that this time he smashed into a fire hydrant. This is his second drunk driving offense.

Where would you put this offender?

a. Regular probation.....17 -1
b. Strict probation..... -2
c. Strict probation + restitution..... -3
d. Strict probation + community service.. -4
e. House arrest..... -5
f. Boot camp..... -6
g. Prison..... -7
h. Not sure..... -8

THE CASE OF A 15 YEAR OLD -- BURGLARY

14. Frank is a 15 year old high school student. He broke into an empty gas station, stole some tools, and broke into a cigarette machine. He was caught and convicted. This was his first offense.

Where would you put this offender?

a. Regular probation.....18 -1
b. Strict probation..... -2
c. Strict probation + restitution..... -3
d. Strict probation + community service.. -4
e. House arrest..... -5
f. Boot camp..... -6
g. Prison (for juvenile offenders)..... -7
h. Not sure..... -8

THE CASE OF ALICE -- THEFT

15. Alice, 24, stole a dress worth about $150. When caught and convicted, it was learned that Alice had stolen things worth about $150 four other times over the past few years. That makes stealing the dress her fifth offense.

Where would you put this offender?

a. Regular probation.....19 -1
b. Strict probation..... -2
c. Strict probation + restitution..... -3
d. Strict probation + community service.. -4
e. House arrest..... -5
f. Boot camp..... -6
g. Prison..... -7
h. Not sure..... -8

16. Now imagine that Alice has been convicted for shoplifting a total of five times, but that she also works two jobs, and supports four young children.

Where would you put this offender?

a. Regular probation.....20 -1
b. Strict probation..... -2
c. Strict probation + restitution..... -3
d. Strict probation + community service.. -4
e. House arrest..... -5
f. Boot camp..... -6
g. Prison..... -7
h. Not sure..... -8

THE CASE OF AL -- DRUG SELLING

17. Al, 22, was selling drugs in front of his home when he sold a small amount of cocaine to an undercover police officer. This was Al's first conviction.

Where would you put this offender?

a. Regular probation.....21 -1
b. Strict probation..... -2
c. Strict probation + restitution..... -3
d. Strict probation + community service.. -4
e. House arrest..... -5
f. Boot camp..... -6
g. Prison..... -7
h. Not sure..... -8

18. Now imagine that Al is a drug addict who wants help. He has tried to get into a drug treatment clinic, but there is a six month wait. Also, Al has been convicted of selling drugs twice before. Selling cocaine to the police officer is his <u>third</u> offense.

Where would you put this offender?

a. Regular probation.....22 -1
b. Strict probation..... -2
c. Strict probation + restitution..... -3
d. Strict probation + community service.. -4
e. House arrest..... -5
f. Boot camp..... -6
g. Prison..... -7
h. Not sure..... -8

19. Now imagine that Al has been convicted of selling cocaine a total of four times in the past. He is still an addict, and looking for help. Now, selling the cocaine to the police officer is his <u>fifth</u> offense.

Where would you put this offender?

a. Regular probation.....23 -1
b. Strict probation..... -2
c. Strict probation + restitution..... -3
d. Strict probation + community service.. -4
e. House arrest..... -5
f. Boot camp..... -6
g. Prison..... -7
h. Not sure..... -8

<u>THE CASE OF PHIL -- BURGLARY</u>

20. Late one night, Phil, 22, picked the lock at an electronics shop and stole a $5,000 stereo. There was no one in the store, and Phil was not armed. This was his <u>first</u> offense.

Where would you put this offender?

a. Regular probation.....24 -1
b. Strict probation..... -2
c. Strict probation + restitution..... -3
d. Strict probation + community service.. -4
e. House arrest..... -5
f. Boot camp..... -6
g. Prison..... -7
h. Not sure..... -8

21. Now imagine that Phil had committed a similar burglary three years ago. That means stealing the stereo was his second offense.

Where would you put this offender?

a. Regular probation.....25 -1
b. Strict probation..... -2
c. Strict probation + restitution..... -3
d. Strict probation + community service.. -4
e. House arrest..... -5
f. Boot camp..... -6
g. Prison..... -7
h. Not sure..... -8

22. Finally, imagine that when Phil committed these burglaries, he was armed with a loaded pistol, but never used it. It's still his second offense.

Where would you put this offender?

a. Regular probation.....26 -1
b. Strict probation..... -2
c. Strict probation + restitution..... -3
d. Strict probation + community service.. -4
e. House arrest..... -5
f. Boot camp..... -6
g. Prison..... -7
h. Not sure..... -8

A CASE OF ROBBERY INVOLVING THREE MEN

This case involves three men, each of whom has a record for car theft. While driving around one night, they decided to rob a liquor store. They had been drinking heavily and before they got to the store, the third man passed out drunk in the back seat. The first man entered the store with a gun and demanded money while the other two stayed in the car. When the salesman moved, the man panicked, shot him in the arm, and took $400. They were caught, so this is the second offense for each man.

23. Where would you put the man who shot the salesman?

a. Regular probation.....27 -1
b. Strict probation..... -2
c. Strict probation + restitution..... -3
d. Strict probation + community service.. -4
e. House arrest..... -5
f. Boot camp..... -6
g. Prison..... -7
h. Not sure..... -8

24. Where would you put the man who drove the getaway car?

a. Regular probation.....28 -1
b. Strict probation..... -2
c. Strict probation + restitution..... -3
d. Strict probation + community service.. -4
e. House arrest..... -5
f. Boot camp..... -6
g. Prison..... -7
h. Not sure..... -8

25. Where would you put the man who agreed to the robbery but then fell asleep in the back of the getaway car?

a. Regular probation.....29 -1
b. Strict probation..... -2
c. Strict probation + restitution..... -3
d. Strict probation + community service.. -4
e. House arrest..... -5
f. Boot camp..... -6
g. Prison..... -7
h. Not sure..... -8

THE CASE OF LOU -- EMBEZZLEMENT

26. Lou, 26, connected his home computer to the main computer at a bank. By manipulating the bank's records, he stole a total of $250,000 over three years. Lou was finally caught and convicted of embezzlement. It was his first offense.

Where would you put this offender?

a. Regular probation.....30 -1
b. Strict probation..... -2
c. Strict probation + restitution..... -3
d. Strict probation + community service.. -4
e. House arrest..... -5
f. Boot camp..... -6
g. Prison..... -7
h. Not sure..... -8

THE CASE OF A 15 YEAR OLD -- ARMED ROBBERY

27. Paul is a 15 year old high school student. One night he pulled a knife on a woman in the street and demanded money. When she resisted, he slashed her arm. Paul was later caught and convicted. This was his first offense.

Where would you put this offender?

a. Regular probation.....31 -1
b. Strict probation..... -2
c. Strict probation + restitution..... -3
d. Strict probation + community service.. -4
e. House arrest..... -5
f. Boot camp..... -6
g. Prison (for juvenile offenders)..... -7
h. Not sure..... -8

THE CASE OF HAL -- STRICT PROBATION VIOLATION

28. Hal, 24, was convicted for shoplifting a small amount of merchandise and sentenced to Strict Probation. He had previously committed two similar offenses. One day he overslept, missing a meeting with his probation officer and violating the terms of his Strict Probation.

Where would you put this offender?

a. Regular probation.....32 -1
b. Strict probation..... -2
c. Strict probation + restitution..... -3
d. Strict probation + community service.. -4
e. House arrest..... -5
f. Boot camp..... -6
g. Prison..... -7
h. Not sure..... -8

29. Now imagine that instead of oversleeping, Hal took a mandatory urine test that showed he had used drugs, a different violation of his Strict Probation.

Where would you put this offender?

a. Regular probation.....33 -1
b. Strict probation..... -2
c. Strict probation + restitution..... -3
d. Strict probation + community service.. -4
e. House arrest..... -5
f. Boot camp..... -6
g. Prison..... -7
h. Not sure..... -8

30. Now imagine that instead of oversleeping or taking drugs, Hal was caught shoplifting again.

Where would you put this offender?

a. Regular probation.....34 -1
b. Strict probation..... -2
c. Strict probation + restitution..... -3
d. Strict probation + community service.. -4
e. House arrest..... -5
f. Boot camp..... -6
g. Prison..... -7
h. Not sure..... -8

These next questions are about prisons and crime in Alabama.

31. In the past year, do you feel the crime rate in your area has:

a. Been increasing.....35 -1
b. Remained the same as before..... -2
c. Been decreasing..... -3
d. I'm really not sure..... -4

32. Do you think the crime rate in Alabama is higher or lower than in the rest of the U.S.?

a. The crime rate is lower.....36 -1
b. The crime rate is the same..... -2
c. The crime rate is higher..... -3
d. I'm really not sure..... -4

33. A "restitution center" is a house where about a dozen offenders live while they pay back their victim for their crime. They might do community service, like cleaning parks, or paid work. None of these offenders committed a violent crime, but some of them may have been convicted of selling drugs. Assuming the center were strictly run, does it sound like a good idea to you?

a. Yes.....37 -1
b. No..... -2
c. Not Sure..... -3

34. Assuming none of the offenders committed a violent crime, would you be willing to have a restitution center located in your community?

a. Yes.....38 -1
b. No..... -2
c. Not sure..... -3

35. Now assume that none of the offenders had committed a violent crime or a drug-related crime. Now would you be willing to have a restitution center in your community?

a. Yes.....39 -1
b. No..... -2
c. Not sure..... -3

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Agree	Disagree	Not Sure
36. Some of the people who are now sent to prison should really be put into alternative programs like strict probation, house arrest or boot camp.....40	-1	-2	-3
37. Some of the people who are currently put on probation should really be supervised more closely through programs like strict probation, house arrest or boot camp.....41	-1	-2	-3

Do you agree or disagree with these arguments about alternatives to prison?

		Agree	Disagree	Not Sure
38. Alternatives are really more expensive than prison because offenders are free to commit additional crimes against society	42	-1	-2	-3
39. Alternatives improve the chance that an offender will be rehabilitated	43	-1	-2	-3
40. Alternatives are not harsh enough, offenders should be punished to the full extent of the law	44	-1	-2	-3
41. Alternatives give judges the flexibility to make the punishment fit the crime	45	-1	-2	-3
42. Alternatives give a judge too much room for choice and so offenders who commit identical crimes might receive different sentences	46	-1	-2	-3

As you may know, the Constitution prohibits cruel and unusual punishment but people sometimes disagree about what "cruel and unusual" punishment means. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

		Agree	Disagree	Not Sure
43. Castrating a rapist amounts to cruel and unusual punishment	47	-1	-2	-3
44. Putting someone in an overcrowded prison amounts to cruel and unusual punishment	48	-1	-2	-3
45. Taking away someone's driver's license amounts to cruel and unusual punishment	49	-1	-2	-3

In Alabama, should the following get more emphasis, less emphasis, or about the same emphasis they get now.

		More	Less	The Same	Not Sure
46. The rights of a victim of a crime	50	-1	-2	-3	-4
47. The rights of a person accused of a crime	51	-1	-2	-3	-4
48. Maintaining basic law and order	52	-1	-2	-3	-4
49. Equal treatment under the law for everyone, regardless of race, color or creed	53	-1	-2	-3	-4
50. Efforts to rehabilitate convicted offenders	54	-1	-2	-3	-4

Recently, many states have passed mandatory sentencing laws which set a minimum prison term for certain offenders. Mark whether you agree or disagree with these statements about such laws.

		Agree	Disagree	Not Sure
51. Mandatory sentencing laws have done a lot to reduce crime	55	-1	-2	-3
52. Mandatory sentencing laws are a major cause of prison overcrowding	56	-1	-2	-3
53. I strongly favor the use of mandatory sentencing laws	57	-1	-2	-3
54. Laws requiring a mandatory sentence should be adjusted to give judges more flexibility when sentencing convicted criminals	58	-1	-2	-3

55. Do you favor or oppose the death penalty for persons convicted of murder?

a. Favor.....59 -1
b. Oppose..... -2
c. Not sure..... -3

As you may know, the courts have decided that prisons in Alabama are overcrowded. Here are some possible solutions. Mark how you feel about each.

		Favor	Oppose	Not Sure
56. Build more prisons and pay for them by raising taxes	60	-1	-2	-3
57. Build more prisons and pay for them by cutting back in areas like education and health care	61	-1	-2	-3
58. Release some nonviolent offenders from prison a few months early	62	-1	-2	-3
59. Use capital punishment more often for the most serious crimes, such as murder	63	-1	-2	-3
60. Place many people who would normally go to prison in less expensive programs such as strict probation, house arrest, boot camp, etc	64	-1	-2	-3

61. At what age do you think children who commit the most serious crimes such as murder should be treated and punished as adults?

a. 18 years and older.....65 -1
b. 17 years..... -2
c. 16 years..... -3
d. 15 years..... -4
e. 14 years..... -5
f. 13 years..... -6
g. 12 or less than 12..... -7
h. Not sure..... - 8

62. At what age do you think children who commit crimes such as robbery, burglary and selling drugs should be treated and punished as adults?
    a. 18 years and older.....66 -1
    b. 17 years..... -2
    c. 16 years..... -3
    d. 15 years..... -4
    e. 14 years..... -5
    f. 13 years..... -6
    g. 12 or less than 12..... -7
    h. Not sure..... - 8

Again, these last questions are just for classification purposes.

63. Which of the following age groups are you in?
    a. 18 to 30.....67 -1
    b. 31 to 45..... -2
    c. 46 to 60..... -3
    d. 61 and over..... -4
    e. I choose not to answer..... -5

64. How far did you get in school?
    a. Grade school or less.....68 -1
    b. Completed grade school..... -2
    c. Some high school..... -3
    d. High school graduate..... -4
    e. Some college or trade school..... -5
    f. College graduate..... -6
    g. Graduate work..... -7
    h. I choose not to answer..... -8

65. For statistical purposes only, we need to know your total family income for 1987. Which of these categories would it be in?
    a. Less than $10,000.....69 -1
    b. $10,000 to $20,000..... -2
    c. $20,000 to $30,000..... -3
    d. $30,000 to $40,000..... -4
    e. $40,000 to $50,000..... -5
    f. Over $50,000..... -6
    g. I choose not to answer..... -7

66. Do you have any children under 18 living at home?
    a. Yes.....70 -1
    b. No..... -2
    c. I choose not to answer..... -3

67. Are you registered to vote as a Republican, Democrat or Independent?
    a. Republican.....71 -1
    b. Democrat..... -2
    c. Independent or other..... -3
    d. Not registered..... -4

68. How would you describe your family's national origin?
    a. Irish-American.....72 -1
    b. Italian-American..... -2
    c. Scotch-Irish-American..... -3
    d. Black or Afro-American..... -4
    e. Polish-American..... -5
    f. Hispanic-American..... -6
    g. Other _____ -7
       Please Specify
    h. I choose not to answer..... -8

69. In the last year or two, have you or anyone in your immediate family been a victim of any crime?
    a. Yes.....73 -1
    b. No..... -2
    c. I choose not to answer..... -3

70. How would you classify your job or occupation?
    a. Professional/executive/owner.....74 -1
    b. White collar..... -2
    c. Blue collar..... -3
    d. Student..... -4
    e. Homemaker (or housewife)..... -5
    f. Unemployed..... -6
    g. Retired..... -7
    h. I choose not to answer..... -8

71. Do you or anyone in your immediate family work in the criminal justice system? (For example, police, courts, prisons, jails, etc.)
    a. Yes.....75 -1
    b. No..... -2
    c. I choose not to answer..... -3

72. Are you a male or female?
    a. Male.....76 -1
    b. Female..... -2
    c. I choose not to answer..... -3

73. Do you live within five miles of a prison?
    a. Yes.....77 -1
    b. No..... -2
    c. I'm really not sure..... -3

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP. THAT COMPLETES THE QUESTIONNAIRE.

PLEASE KEEP IT UNTIL YOU ARE ASKED TO HAND IT IN.

The Public Agenda Foundation
6 East 39th Street
New York, N.Y. 10016
(212) 686-6610
Questionnaire #1: Pretest

INTERVIEW #-- DO NOT FILL IN

/ -1/ -2/ -3/

THE PUBLIC AGENDA FOUNDATION

PLEASE BEGIN HERE

INSTRUCTIONS: Go through the questionnaire and answer each question. Circle the number of your answer.

What is your name? _____
PLEASE PRINT YOUR FULL NAME ON THE LINE ABOVE

1. Where do you live? (Circle the number across from your county.)

a. Jefferson.....4-5 -1
b. Blount..... -2
c. Walker..... -3
d. Shelby..... -4
e. St. Clair..... -5
f. Madison..... -6
g. Marshall..... -7
h. Lauderdale..... -8
i. Colbert..... -9
j. Autauga..... -10
k. Elmore..... -11
l. Montgomery..... -12
m. Baldwin..... -13
n. Mobile..... -14

o. Other _____ -15
Please Specify

People sometimes have different opinions about their state government. How good a job do you think the following branches of government are doing?

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Not Sure
2. In an overall sense, is the Alabama state government doing an excellent, good, fair, or poor job? 6	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5
3. How about the job done by the state police?.....7	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5
4. How good a job do you think the Alabama state prisons are doing?.....8	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5
5. What about the Alabama state courts?.....9	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5
6. How about the Alabama juvenile justice system including reform schools and rehabilitation programs for young offenders?.....10	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5

These next statements are about the Alabama state prison system. For each one, mark whether you agree with it or not.

	Agree	Disagree	Not Sure
7. Many of the people now on probation in Alabama really belong in prison.....11	-1	-2	-3
8. All things considered, Alabama prisons do a pretty good job of rehabilitating prisoners..12	-1	-2	-3
9. Alabama prisons are too hard on the inmates.....13	-1	-2	-3
10. Prison turns people into hardened criminals.....14	-1	-2	-3

11. What portion of convicted prisoners in Alabama do you think are in prison because they committed a violent crime?

a. About 25 percent (or 1 of 4).....15 -1
b. About 50 percent (or 2 of 4)..... -2
c. About 75 percent (or 3 of 4)..... -3
d. Almost all (more than 9 in 10)..... -4
e. I'm really not sure..... -5

12. The vast majority of convicted criminal offenders should serve at least some time in prison -- do you:

a. Agree.....16 -1
b. Disagree..... -2
c. Not sure..... -3

13. In general, do you think prison sentences in Alabama should be:
    a. Longer.....17 -1
    b. Shorter..... -2
    c. About the same..... -3
    d. Not sure..... -4

14. In your opinion, does the state of Alabama need more prisons, or not?
    a. Yes.....18 -1
    b. No..... -2
    c. Not sure..... -3

Read each case and decide whether the offender should be put on probation or in prison. Assume that there are no other crimes than the ones described.

THE CASE OF TOM -- ARMED ROBBERY

15. One night Tom, 25, cornered a woman in an alley. He pointed a loaded gun at her and took her purse. Tom was caught and convicted of armed robbery. Prior to this crime, he was convicted of burglary and selling drugs. The armed robbery was his third offense.

Where would you put this offender? On probation where he would see a probation officer about once a month, or in prison?
    a. Probation.....19 -1
    b. Prison..... -2
    c. Not sure..... -3

THE CASE OF BILL -- JOYRIDING

16. Bill, 23, took a joyride in a new sports car. He hot-wired the car and drove around for a couple of hours, then returned it undamaged. Later he was caught. This was his first offense.

Where would you put this offender?
    a. Probation.....20 -1
    b. Prison..... -2
    c. Not sure..... -3

THE CASE OF BOB -- THEFT

17. Bob, 24, was caught after stealing a $150 radio from an audio store. It was his first offense.

Where would you put this offender?
    a. Probation.....21 -1
    b. Prison..... -2
    c. Not sure..... -3

18. Now suppose that when Bob was arrested, he had two previous convictions for shoplifting. If we add it up, stealing the radio is his third offense.

Where would you put this offender?
a. Probation.....22 -1
b. Prison..... -2
c. Not sure..... -3

19. Now imagine that Bob has been convicted for shoplifting four times before he stole the radio. That makes this his fifth offense.

Where would you put this offender?
a. Probation.....23 -1
b. Prison..... -2
c. Not sure..... -3

20. Finally, imagine that Bob has been convicted for shoplifting a total of five times, but that he also works two jobs, and supports a wife and four young children.

Where would you put this offender?
a. Probation.....24 -1
b. Prison..... -2
c. Not sure..... -3

THE CASE OF GENE -- RAPE

21. Gene, 25, mugged a young woman, dragged her into the park, and raped her. He was caught and convicted. This was his first offense.

Where would you put this offender?
a. Probation.....25 -1
b. Prison..... -2
c. Not sure..... -3

THE CASE OF JOE -- DRUNK DRIVING

22. One evening Joe, 23, was caught driving while drunk on a state highway. This was his first offense.

Where would you put this offender?
a. Probation.....26 -1
b. Prison..... -2
c. Not sure..... -3

23. Now imagine that Joe was caught a second time, and that this time he smashed into a fire hydrant. This is his second drunk driving offense.

Where would you put this offender?
a. Probation.....27 -1
b. Prison..... -2
c. Not sure..... -3

THE CASE OF A 15 YEAR OLD -- BURGLARY

24. Frank is a 15 year old high school student. He broke into an empty gas station, stole some tools, and broke into a cigarette machine. He was caught and convicted. This was his first offense.

Where would you put this offender?
a. Probation.....28 -1
b. Prison (for juvenile offenders).... -2
c. Not sure..... -3

THE CASE OF ALICE -- THEFT

25. Alice, 24, stole a dress worth about $150. When caught and convicted, it was learned that Alice had stolen things worth about $150 four other times over the past few years. That makes steal ; the dress her fifth offense.

Where would you put this offender?
a. Probation.....29 -1
b. Prison..... -2
c. Not sure..... -3

26. Now imagine that Alice has been convicted for shoplifting a total of five times, but that she also works two jobs, and supports four young children.

Where would you put this offender?
a. Probation.....30 -1
b. Prison..... -2
c. Not sure..... -3

THE CASE OF AL -- DRUG SELLING

27. Al, 22, was selling drugs in front of his home when he sold a small amount of cocaine to an undercover police officer. This was Al's first conviction.

Where would you put this offender?
a. Probation.....31 -1
b. Prison..... -2
c. Not sure..... -3

28. Now imagine that Al is a drug addict who wants help. He has tried to get into a drug treatment clinic, but there is a six month wait. Also, Al has been convicted of selling drugs twice before. Selling cocaine to the police officer is his third offense.

Where would you put this offender?
a. Probation.....32 -1
b. Prison..... -2
c. Not sure..... -3

29. Now imagine that Al has been convicted of selling cocaine a total of four times in the past. He is still an addict, and looking for help. Now, selling the cocaine to the police officer is his fifth offense.

Where would you put this offender?
a. Probation.....33 -1
b. Prison..... -2
c. Not sure..... -3

THE CASE OF PHIL -- BURGLARY

30. Late one night, Phil, 22, picked the lock at an electronics shop and stole a $5,000 stereo. There was no one in the store, and Phil was not armed. This was his first offense.

Where would you put this offender?
a. Probation.....34 -1
b. Prison..... -2
c. Not sure..... -3

31. Now imagine that Phil had committed a similar burglary three years ago. That means stealing the stereo was his second offense.

Where would you put this offender?
a. Probation.....35 -1
b. Prison..... -2
c. Not sure..... -3

32. Finally, imagine that when Phil committed these burglaries, he was armed with a loaded pistol, but never used it. It's still his second offense.

Where would you put this offender?
a. Probation.....36 -1
b. Prison..... -2
c. Not sure..... -3

A CASE OF ROBBERY INVOLVING THREE MEN

This case involves three men, each of whom has a record for car theft. While driving around one night, they decided to rob a liquor store. They had been drinking heavily and before they got to the store, the third man passed out drunk in the back seat. The first man entered the store with a gun and demanded money while the other two stayed in the car. When the salesman moved, the man panicked, shot him in the arm, and took $400. They were caught, so this is the second offense for each man.

33. Where would you put the man who shot the salesman?
    a. Probation.....37 -1
    b. Prison..... -2
    c. Not sure..... -3

34. Where would you put the man who drove the getaway car?
    a. Probation.....38 -1
    b. Prison..... -2
    c. Not sure..... -3

35. Where would you put the man who agreed to the robbery but then fell asleep in the back of the getaway car?
    a. Probation.....39 -1
    b. Prison..... -2
    c. Not sure..... -3

THE CASE OF LOU -- EMBEZZLEMENT

36. Lou, 26, connected his home computer to the main computer at a bank. By manipulating the bank's records, he stole a total of $250,000 over three years. Lou was finally caught and convicted of embezzlement. It was his first offense.

Where would you put this offender?
    a. Probation.....40 -1
    b. Prison..... -2
    c. Not sure..... -3

THE CASE OF A 15 YEAR OLD -- ARMED ROBBERY

37. Paul is a 15 year old high school student. One night he pulled a knife on a woman in the street and demanded money. When she resisted, he slashed her arm. Paul was later caught and convicted. This was his first offense.

Where would you put this offender?
    a. Probation.....41 -1
    b. Prison (for juvenile offenders).... -2
    c. Not sure..... -3

38. These next questions are about prisons and crime in Alabama. Over the last ten years, do you think the number of people in prison in Alabama has:

a. Decreased slightly.....42 -1
b. Stayed about the same..... -2
c. Increased slightly..... -3
d. Increased a lot..... -4
e. More than doubled..... -5
f. I'm really not sure..... -6

39. About how much do you think it costs to keep one person in an Alabama state prison for a year?

a. About $4,000.....43 -1
b. About $6,000..... -2
c. About $8,000..... -3
d. About $10,000..... -4
e. About $12,000..... -5
f. About $15,000..... -6
g. I'm really not sure..... -7

As you may know, the Constitution prohibits cruel and unusual punishment but people sometimes disagree about what "cruel and unusual" punishment means. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

		Agree	Disagree	Not Sure
40. Castrating a rapist amounts to cruel and unusual punishment	44	-1	-2	-3
41. Putting someone in an overcrowded prison amounts to cruel and unusual punishment	45	-1	-2	-3
42. Taking away someone's driver's license amounts to cruel and unusual punishment	46	-1	-2	-3

As you may know, the courts have ruled that Alabama prisons are overcrowded. Here are some possible solutions. Mark how you feel about each one.

		Favor	Oppose	Not Sure
43. Build more prisons and pay for them by raising taxes	47	-1	-2	-3
44. Build more prisons and pay for them by cutting back in other areas like education and health care	48	-1	-2	-3
45. Release some nonviolent offenders from prison a few months early	49	-1	-2	-3
46. Use capital punishment more often for the most serious crimes, such as murder	50	-1	-2	-3
47. Find new ways to punish offenders that are less expensive than prison, but harsher than probation	51	-1	-2	-3

These last few questions are just for classification purposes.

48. Which of the following age groups are you in?
    a. 18 to 30.....52 -1
    b. 31 to 45..... -2
    c. 46 to 60..... -3
    d. 61 and over..... -4
    e. I choose not to answer..... -5

49. How far did you get in school?
    a. Grade school or less.....53 -1
    b. Completed grade school..... -2
    c. Some high school..... -3
    d. High school graduate..... -4
    e. Some college or trade school..... -5
    f. College graduate..... -6
    g. Graduate work..... -7
    h. I choose not to answer..... -8

50. For statistical purposes only, we need to know your total family income for 1987. Which of these categories would it be in?
    a. Less than $10,000.....54 -1
    b. $10,000 to $20,000..... -2
    c. $20,000 to $30,000..... -3
    d. $30,000 to $40,000..... -4
    e. $40,000 to $50,000..... -5
    f. Over $50,000..... -6
    g. I choose not to answer..... -7

51. Do you have any children under 18 living at home?
    a. Yes.....55 -1
    b. No..... -2
    c. I choose not to answer..... -3

52. Are you registered to vote as a Republican, Democrat or Independent?
    a. Republican.....56 -1
    b. Democrat..... -2
    c. Independent or other..... -3
    d. Not registered..... -4

53. How would you describe your family's national origin?
    a. Irish-American.....57 -1
    b. Italian-American..... -2
    c. Scotch-Irish-American..... -3
    d. Black or Afro-American..... -4
    e. Polish-American..... -5
    f. Hispanic-American..... -6

    g. Other _____ -7
    Please Specify
    h. I choose not to answer..... -8

54. In the past year or two, have you or anyone in your immediate family been a victim of any crime?
    a. Yes.....58 -1
    b. No..... -2
    c. I choose not to answer... -3

55. How would you classify your job or occupation?
    a. Professional/executive/owner....59 -1
    b. White collar..... -2
    c. Blue collar..... -3
    d. Student..... -4
    e. Homemaker (or housewife)..... -5
    f. Unemployed..... -6
    g. Retired..... -7
    h. I choose not to answer..... -8

56. Do you or anyone in your immediate family work in the criminal justice system? (For example, police, courts, prisons, jails, etc.)
    a. Yes.....60 -1
    b. No..... -2
    c. I choose not to answer..... -3

57. Are you a male or female?
    a. Male.....61 -1
    b. Female..... -2
    c. I choose not to answer..... -3

58. Do you live within five miles of a prison?
    a. Yes.....62 -1
    b. No..... -2
    c. I'm really not sure..... -3

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP. THAT COMPLETES THE QUESTIONNAIRE.

PLEASE KEEP IT UNTIL YOU ARE ASKED TO HAND IT IN.

SEVEN ALTERNATIVES

1. REGULAR PROBATION
   - Offender visits the probation officer once a month.
   - Length of sentence: Up to 2 years.
   - Cost: $1,000 a year.

2. STRICT PROBATION
   - Offender sees the probation officer up to 5 times a week.
   - Length of Sentence: Up to 2 years
   - Cost: $3,000 a year

3. STRICT PROBATION + RESTITUTION
   - Offender must pay back the victim.
   - Length of Sentence: Up to 2 years
   - Cost: $3,500 a year.

4. STRICT PROBATION + COMMUNITY SERVICE
   - Offender must perform services to pay back the community.
   - Length of Sentence: Up to 6 months
   - Cost: $5,500 a year.

5. HOUSE ARREST
   - Offender must stay home except to go to work, church, or a doctor.
   - Length of Sentence: Up to 1 year
   - Cost: $4,500 a year.

6. BOOT CAMP
   - Offender must complete a basic training-style program in a building near the prison but separate from the regular prisoners.
   - Length of Sentence: 3 to 6 months
   - Cost: $8,500 a year.

7. PRISON
   - Cost: $10,000 to $30,000 a year, depending on the state.

VI. PROJECT STAFF

PROJECT STAFF

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John Carvalho, Villanova University/HOSI
Joseph DesJardins, Villanova University/HOSI
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